

MATCH REPORTS CLASSICS

SEASON 2016-2017

CLASSICS ROUND 1 v LINDFIELD AT LINDFIELD OVAL, TRYON WAY LINDFIELD, ON SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2016 REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A lovely setting around the ground greeted us. The ground itself was similar in condition to Camperdown's outfield after footy season, very rough to field on but lightning fast. The wicket was ordinary, little grass but very hard & played true the whole day. We had a few absent, so we had fill in players Ramesh Nadarajah, a keeper in Peter Hall's absence and Kumara Mitiyamulle to bolster the batting.

We won the toss and batted. Our openers Sittampalam Ragavan (Raga) and Bandula Wijesinghe played cautiously as the ball was swinging around a lot. Raga copped a beautiful yorker and was bowled for 0. Kumara Mitiyamulle was soon trapped in front 0 – not the start we hoped for. Bandula hit 2 well timed fours before getting a leading edge which was brilliantly caught one-handed in the outfield, now 3-10. John Mesar and Mick McCormick both had to work hard to play themselves in against a good attack. John too got a leading edge and was caught at gully, now 4-22 and not looking good. Ajoy Roy settled in. He and Mick saw off the opening bowlers and then started to attack & boundaries flourished. Anything hit into a gap went for four. Mick in particular hit five fours and a six in his 30* retired – all fours thundering into the fence. Ajoy soon retired with five fours as the score looked respectable at 4-78 at drinks.

Garry Winney and Ramesh Nadarajah both despatched any poor delivery, Ramesh cutting three consecutive boundaries. Garry played some nice off and straight drives before edging a cut shot to the keeper for 29, now 5- 144 off 28 overs. Ramesh retired with a well made 30*. Wasanta Hettiarachchi (Wasan) and Stuart Ridge kept up the run rate before Wasan was caught and bowled, shortly followed by Paul Georgiadis who played over a good yorker, 7-159 with 9 overs to play. Mick re-entered to continue his blazing innings pasting the bowling to all parts, particularly his on-side drives rocketed to the fence. Stu rotated the strike but holed out to a brilliant diving outfield catch, 8-190 with 4 overs to go as Ajoy came out. He and Mick added 46 off the last few overs to reach 8-236, an amazing recovery from 4-22. Mick's 77* is our highest Classics score included eleven fours and two sixes while Ajoy's 45* had seven hard hit boundaries in a good supporting role.

Lindfield are one of the top teams and include two C.C.N.S.W. tourists in Peter Harrison and 'Jacko' Jackson – who didn't have a 'trivial' innings. John Mesar and Stuart Ridge opened the bowling. Stu, welcome back to the opening attack after a decade of family duties. It only took him an over for his first wicket, a well judged catch at mid on by Wasan 1-10. John bowled an excellent spell of 0-8 off 5 overs.

Players were being hit all over the body from drives that bounced in all directions off the uneven playing surface. They kept attacking as Jacko spanked a couple of cut shots & drives for 4 before Paul Georgiadis bowled him for 26. Peter Harrison came in & struggled with his timing against Paul. Their captain Doug Latto hit a few good boundaries before falling lbw to Raga, now 3-60 with Nes working the ones they kept up a good 6 an over rate. Ajoy was given the last over before drinks and after a few short deliveries got the perfect leg break through Peter's defence who was well stumped

by Ramesh for 26, 4-83 at drinks (very comparable to our score). They needed about 150 off 20 overs but a fast outfield.

Ajoy got another breakthrough from a loopy full toss hit straight to John Mesar at mid wicket, now 5-97. It became a battle of tactics, we tried to prevent fours, while they got ones and twos but importantly kept hitting one boundary an over. Their middle order batted exceptionally well, we never looked like taking a wicket, two batsmen retired and it took a run out – Wasa threw the ball in from the boundary; it was running on the ground as Stu went out to pick it up, so their runner eased off, Stu let it go and it went five metres and hit the stumps with the batsman not ready to ground his bat. By now it was 6-219 with 12 balls to play. They took 6 off Stu's last over which left 12 to win off Mick McCormick, no pressure Mick as he bowled

their No. 10 bat. 7-225, 5 balls remained. Their first retired bat Mullane came in, missed the first ball but promptly dispatched the next ball over the fence, 6 to win off 3. Crucially he only got a single next ball, 5 off 2 to win. Bowling to their No. 11, he made good contact and got two. We thought, thank goodness the good bat was not on strike for the last ball. No. 11 needed 3 to win with only Mick and keeper Ramesh not on the boundary fence. What happened next ball had a bizarre ending.

Somehow the No.11 edged it fine passed Ramesh. Paul Georgiadis did a fabulous dive to save a boundary, then pick up and throw to the keeper. The non striker had by now nearly finished his 3rd run The No. 11 bat was starting his winning run. Ramesh made a quick decision, there were no fielders at the bowlers stumps, what to do – I'll chase him to the stumps. And like a Keystone Cops movie we had no.11 huffing and puffing for a third run and Ramesh, ball in gloved hand chasing behind him. Thankfully Ramesh passed him a metre from the crease, broke the stumps for a stunning run out. The likes never before seen by me. We all ran about shouting knowing we hadn't lost but had we won?

A tie, a fitting result for such a great game, "*Cricket was the winner today*" as they say. A huge effort by Mick McCormick 77* then to bowl eight straight overs at the end, really tested his stamina today. Good innings from Ajoy Roy and Garry Winney and fine bowling by John Mesar and Mick McCormick and a good first up job from Stuart Ridge, who will improve a lot from today.

Many thanks to our match saviour Ramesh Nadarajah for his fine keeping, quick thinking at the end and a chanceless 30* retired. Also thanks to Kumara Mitiyamulle for filling in and doing such good work in the field for us.

Also to Lindfield, the game was played in the true cricket spirit.

The Team was:- Sittampalam Ragavan 0; Bandula Wijesinghe 9; Kumara Mitiyamulle 0; John Mesar 9; Mick McCormick 77*; Ajoy Roy 45*; Garry Winney (c) 29; Ramesh. Nadarajah (w) 30*; Wasanta Hettiarachchi 8; Stuart Ridge 17; and Paul Georgiadis 2.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-236 (M. McCormick 77*; A. Roy 45*) (40 Overs)

Tied with

Lindfield C.C.: - 8-236 (40 Overs)

FoW: -1- 5 (S. Ragavan) 2-6 (K. Mitiyamulle) 3-10 (B. Wijesinghe) 4-22. (J Mesar) 5-144 (G. Winney) 6-152 (W. Hettiarachchi) 7-159 (P. Georgiadis) 8-190 (S. Ridge)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 9-1-32-0; S. Ridge 8-1-42-1; S. Ragavan 4-0-29-1; P. Georgiadis 4-0-16-1; W. Hettiarachchi 4-0-20-0; M McCormick 8-0-57-1 and A. Roy 3-0-29-2

The Fielding was: - 1 stumping to R. Nadarajah;
1 catch to each of J. Mesar and W. Hettiarachchi
1 run out to each of P. Georgiadis, K. Mitiyamulle and R. Nadarajah

Player Points: - 3 points M. McCormick; 2 points A. Roy; 1 point R. Nadarajah

CLASSICS ROUND 2 v KENTHURST AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

After the storms of Friday night the wicket and outfield had dried out and it was a good batting deck. Keith Elloy had an eye infection and was ruled out by a specialist. At short notice Craig 'Bomber' McKenzie who is not yet fifty, came into the side but had to bat below no. 7. They had their opening bowler pull out and under the father/son rule (*Editor's Note: it is a custom but there is no such formal rule in the Classics playing conditions*) a 14 yr old played in his place (Ethan Hickson) remember the name, he has potential.

Andrew Koch was having his first game for C.C.N.S.W. We had six players trialling for the NSW over 60s team at Tamworth during the week, four games in five days. I was praying at least four would be fit enough to play, which is what happened.

We won the toss and batted. Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Ajoy Roy opened and after six overs we were 0-26 with Raga still 0*. Ajoy punished any poor delivery. Young Ethan bowled lively and gave little away to Raga. Ajoy injured his lower back hooking a four and had to bat with a runner until he made a well compiled 30* retired. Andrew Koch came in and was looking confident till he got a good change up ball that rocketed into the stumps for 10, 1-72. Meanwhile Raga had opened out and was scoring freely until he retired at 30* (5x4) Mick McCormick played a cautious but attacking innings against some good quality left arm bowling of Salvador (1-14 off 9 overs).

John Mesar was out caught for two and Garry Winney copped a 'good'un' from their leggie, pitched leg, hit off stump for 4. Now 3-95 shortly after drinks, Mick and Peter Hall upped the scoring rate with sweet timed boundaries. Mick 30* retired (5x4), Peter 30* retired (1x6, 3x4). Craig McKenzie ("Bomber") came in and he and Stuart Ridge worked the ones, Bomber 3x4's in his 13. Wasanta Hettiarachchi ("Wasan") played some slashing drives and pulls in a quick fire 16* and Stuart Ridge made a solid 9. Paul Georgiadis chopped onto the stumps for 0 and Ajoy Roy went back on for the last 3 overs, raised the 200 and finished a well made 43*. 6-201 A good team score.

Stuart Ridge and Paul Georgiadis opened the bowling. Paul had their opener trying to drive but play over it; before you could blink Peter Hall had the bails off, welcome back Pete. 1-7. Stu was being miserly from his end so they had to go for Paul. He conceded a few fours but he got his man playing over a yorker; - 2-23. Stu got the next bat, apologising that the ball slipped from his hand, bounced chest high then dropped onto the bails. A stunned batter had no idea what just happened, neither did we; 3-26 off 8 overs. Stu 2-19 finally picked up their opener – caught at slip by Mick McCormick. Now 4-42 off 14 overs; Paul 2-21 off his 7 overs in a good support role.

John Mesar picked up a wicket from a skied catch to Bomber. Then Raga and Wasan tied their batsmen down. Their keeper singled out Bomber (also a keeper) for some friendly banter which he joined in and we enjoyed the funny one-liners provided by both as Kenthurst struggled for runs. But they batted sensibly and gave us little chance of getting them out. Ethan Hickson retired with a solid 33* in his first seniors' game. Raga got two late wickets as they finished 7-134.

A good team effort, we played much better than game one. Kenthurst played the match in a jovial mood for a game, enjoyed by all.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 30* ret, Ajoy Roy 43*, Andrew Koch 10, Mick McCormick 30* ret; John Mesar 2, Garry Winney (c) 4, Peter Hall (w) 30* ret, Craig McKenzie 13, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 16*, Stuart Ridge 9 and Paul Georgiadis 0.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-201 (40 overs)

Defeated

Kenthurst: - 7-134 (40 overs)

By 67 runs

FoW: - 1-72 (S. Koch), 2-83 (J. Mesar), 3- 96 (G. Winney), 4-173 (C. McKenzie), 5-174 (S. Ridge), 6-179 (P. Georgiadis)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 9-2-32-2; P. Georgiadis 7-1-21-2; J. Mesar 5-2-12-1; M. McCormick 6-1-21-0; W. Hettiarachchi 5-0-21-0; S. Ragavan 7-0--19-2 and G. Winney 1-0-5-0

The Fielding was: - 1 stumping P. Hall (w); 1 catch to each of M. McCormick, C. McKenzie and S. Ragavan.

Player points: - 3 points to Ajoy Roy; 2 points to Peter Hall; 1 point to Stuart Ridge

CLASSICS ROUND 3 v MANDALONG C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

We won the toss and batted on a good batting strip. Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Craig Somers got us away to a fine start. Craig batted within himself as he had a slight tear in his leg. Raga was more forceful with seven well struck fours before being retired. 0-45 off twelve overs. Craig was immediately judged lbw 1-45, with Andrew Koch and Mick McCormick both in. Runs were hard to score off tight bowling. Mick hit a couple of powerful drives for 4 as Andy worked the ones. 1-75 at drinks, a good platform to launch a good assault.

They brought on Ken Hall (ex 1st Grade for Penrith – highest wicket taker in Grade) He bowled superbly nine overs for sixteen runs. Mick blocked his first three overs as getting a single was hard work. Mick hoiked a four and Hall went of his brain – Mick casually replied '*should've been six*' before retiring at 30 (5 x 4) now 1-96 off twenty five overs. Steve Kavanagh bowled at the other end (ex Australian over 60s player). He was miserly also. We then lost quick wickets just trying to score. Andy hit a good 16 innings, Wasanta Hettiarachchi ("Wasa") was run out, Garry Winney bowled first ball, Keith Elloy got a poor lbw decision, Peter Hall was also bowled for 0 as we slumped to 6-103 off 30 overs, trying to re-enact the Australian cricket team's batting. John Mesar and Stuart Ridge were able to score off bowlers numbers five and six who had to bowl. John hit three powerful pull shots for four. Both were neatly caught at slip off their leggie, Wood, now 8-132 off thirty five overs. Paul Georgiadis was run out going for a second run, 9-133 as Raga and Mick McCormick came back out. Mick blazed a few more thunderous boundaries while Raga twinged his hammy and needed a runner. Mick was run out last ball scrabbling for a quick one – all out 155. Not a bad effort, our middle and lower order were not used to such quality bowling and we should have settled in before losing our wickets – always wise afterwards.

Paul Georgiadis got an early wicket caught at mid off by Andy Koch, then later had their opener lbw. Stuart Ridge joined in to have their No. 3 caught by John Mesar to have them 3-19. De Silva and Kavanagh came in; both pounced on any poor deliveries for four with De Silva 5x4, 1 x6 in his 30*ret , Kavanagh 6x4 in his 30* ret ,all bowlers were dispatched, now 3-78 off sixteen overs. Their retirements got us back into the game John had two successful lbws; now 5-95 at drinks.

With Raga being injured, Garry Winney came on for his first proper spell in over a year. He had Stirling Hamman caught at mid off by Andy Koch 6-106. Wasa was keeping his end tight but their No. 10 batsman Colin Hoving used his long reach to advantage and hit some powerful fours. Wasa bowled Wood for a well compiled 28, now 7-128 and when Peter Hall did a quick stumping off Garry, it was 8-137 off 33 overs.

Kavanagh came back in; we needed his wicket but he never looked like being dismissed as he and Hoving (23*) passed us with two overs to spare.

A good hard fought game with its ebbs and flows. Their two quality players Hall and Kavanagh both performed well to guide them to a win. We were by no means disgraced but our middle order collapse didn't help our cause.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 37*, Craig Somers 12, Andrew Koch 16, Garry Winney (c) 0, Mick McCormick 48, Wasantha Hettiarachchi 0. John Mesar 23, Keith Elloy 1, Peter Hall (w) 0. Stuart Ridge 9 and Paul Georgiadis 0

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-155 (M. McCormick 48; S. Ragavan 37*) (39.5 overs)

Lost to

Mandalong C.C.: - 8-159 (37.4 overs)

By 2 wickets.

FoW: - 1-45 (C. Somers) 2-96 (A. Koch) 3-97 (G. Winney) 4-97 (W. Hettiarachchi) 5-102 (K. Elloy) 6-103 (P. Hall) 7-131 (J. Mesar) 8-132 (P. Georgiadis) 9-133 (S. Ridge) 10-155 (M. McCormick)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 8-0-33-1; P. Georgiadis 6-0-21-2; J. Mesar 6-0-34-2; M. McCormick 4-0-14-0; W. Hettiarachchi 5-1-16-1 and G. Winney 8.4-1-30-2

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: 1 to P. Hall

Catches: 2 catches to A. Koch, 1 catch to J. Mesar

Run-outs: - nil

Player Points: - M. McCormick 3, J. Mesar 2 and S. Ridge 1

CLASSICS ROUND 4 v MOSMAN C.C. AT RAWSON OVAL, MOSMAN ON SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Nice cricketing weather at a lovely setting overlooking the harbour greeted us. Bandula Wijesinghe's friend Prianta Kariawasam helped fill in today and showed a lot of promise.

We lost the toss and bowled. Well, we nearly bowled. Stuart Ridge after a good warm up pulled a leg muscle as he pushed off for the first delivery. Twang, severe damage to our bowling plans already.

John Mesar bowled a tight line against the two openers taking on the field. Paul Georgiadis got the breakthrough first delivery, a missed drive and out plumb lbw 1-0. Mick McCormick made two full length diving saves at point and the mood felt *'well we are switched on in the field today'*. Mosman's No 3, Davis came in and played very conservatively to start with. ten overs 1-26 crept up to over 50 before Nation their opener retired. Wasanta ("Wasan") Hettiarachchi (*Editor's note the final "chi" is silent*) soon took a powerfully hit, caught and bowled to make it 2-66, then 2-74 at drinks.

They slowly upped the run rate while Ajoy Roy had a slick stumping from Peter Hall, with Mick McCormick getting a clean bowled, 4-121 at the thirty over mark. From there they launched their attack, and smashed us all over the park, Ross Greenwood in a mini cameo 23* in no time. Paul Georgiadis had two very neat stumpings by Peter in the last over – 8-193, probably 30 more than we would have preferred.

Again Ross Greenwood halted our progress, this time bowling seven overs 1-14. He bowled Ajoy for 1 on one that cut back in. Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Andy Koch steadied the ship as they took to their first change bowler: now ten overs 1-45. Now Davis and Clarke came on for Mosman and dried up the runs with only 19 runs off the next ten overs. Raga had retired for a well made 30*. Neither bowler wavered in line or length. Drinks 1-64 but they had a big last ten overs, whereas as hard as we tried, we couldn't accelerate like they did.

Andy retired at 31* in a solid innings. Prianta Kariawasam hit a beautiful straight four, but then was brilliantly caught low down at point. John Mesar got a leading edge, Mick McCormick hit three powerful fours before out lbw. At the thirty over mark, we were only 9 runs behind them. Wasan batted well for his 26 trying to force the pace, Peter Hall was bowled for 2 and we were 6-130 off thirty three overs, needing nearly ten an over. We could only manage 29 off the last seven overs as good bowling and fielding tied us down with our lack of power hitters. We finished up 7-159. A good solid display but outplayed by a good team on the day, played in good spirits.

We have now played three of the top four teams, each of them having good quality hard hitting lower order bats that we haven't been able to contain, nor have the ability to match them when we bat. Just a sign of how much stronger the top teams are becoming in the Classics with Grade players filtering through the competition now.

Still we have been competitive in our two losses to date, 1 tie and 1 win. Missing Peter Rolls' batting, with his being out injured for the season.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 30 * ret, Ajoy Roy 1, Andy Koch 31* ret, Mick McCormick 18, Prianta Kariawasam 4, John Mesar 8, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 26, Peter Hall (w) 2, Garry Winney (c) 18*, Peter Georgiadis 5, and Stuart Ridge 4*

The Result was: -

Mosman C.C.: - 8-193 (P. Georgiadis 3-32) (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-159 (A Koch 31* ret; S. Ragavan 30* ret) (40 overs)

By 34 runs.

FoW: - 1-13 (A. Roy) 2-87 (P. Kariawasam) 3-91 (M. McCormick) 4-111 (J. Mesar) 6-130 (P. Hall) 7-130 (W. Hettiarachchi) 8-154 (P. Georgiadis)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 9-2-32-1; P. Georgiadis 5-0-32-3; M. McCormick 9-1-30-1; S. Ragavan 6-0-40-1; W. Hettiarachchi 4-0-25-1; G. Winney 4-0-13-0; and A. Roy 3-0-20-1

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: 3 to P. Hall

Catches: 1 catch to each of W. Hettiarachchi and M McCormick

Run-outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to S. Ragavan; 2 points to P. Georgiadis; 1 point to A. Koch.

CLASSICS ROUND 5 v ROSEVILLE C.C. AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Beautiful weather and a good batting track today. We struggled to get a side together. Thankfully Greg Brooks could play, as did Jay Patel, and we had two fill-ins, friends of Sittampalam Ragavan's ("*Raga*"), Kanagasabapathy Umasaran ("*Saran*") and Doraisamy Sripathmasri ("*Pat*"). We also had a few sore bodies with Mick McCormick, John Mesar, Wasanta Hettiarachchi (*:Wasan*), Raga, and Peter Hall all playing midweek Over 50s games for NSW – our club was certainly well represented in this inaugural tournament.

As usual, C.C.N.S.W. lost the toss and fielded. Raga and Paul Georgiadis opened the attack, however once their openers settled in the runs started flowing as we were slow in the field. First opener retired at 31* (0-45). Their good bat Minnet came in and started with some booming drives. Paul was unlucky not to take his wicket; he advanced down the pitch and would have been stumped except for a little bottom edge to go below Peter's gloves. The other opener also retired; now 0-74 off 16 overs.

Greg Brook's introduction to the crease halted their onslaught. He soon had the new bat caught behind by Peter Hall (1-85), then lbw for 0 the next bat – at 20 overs – 2-96.

After drinks, Greg then bowled the next bat 3-97 and two overs later Saran took a good catch from Greg's bowling to have them 4-120. Jay Patel came on and immediately bowled their No 9, 5-127, with 31 added in 10 overs as Greg finished his spell 9ov 4-21 a brilliant display of line and length bowling giving them nothing to hit.

With the change of bowling Mick McCormick came on to do a four over spell – quite mixed, two quick wickets then smashed all over the ground, as was Raga. Garry Winney finished up bowling Minnet for 56 – an aggressive powerful bat who made the difference. They reached 9-214 – 30 more than we had hoped. Paul Georgiadis nearly took a screamer in the outfield, running 20 metres and thrusting out both arms full stretch to have the ball rebound out, he did so well to even reach it.

A big task, Ajoy Roy's early six showed our intent, but Raga's inside edged of a ball onto his pads and was given out for 1; that really hurt our chances. Wasan and Ajoy took the score to 36 (8 overs) before Wasan was caught for 14; he batted well. John Mesar came in. Ajoy hit a lofted four but was then judged lbw for 25 well compiled runs, now 3-41. John smashed a ball to midwicket, a metre either side was 4, but he was caught for 2, 4-43. Mick McCormick and Pat consolidated, and by drinks we were 4-72. Pat worked the ones and Mick hit 4x4s in his 30*ret.

Enter Greg Brooks determined to get us back in the game – well 5x4's and a mighty 6 certainly helped. His big booming drives were unstoppable as he retired for 34*. Saran was soon caught for 1, Peter Hall was run out for 2 from a poor call. Pat too was run out for 17 as we strived for quick runs 7-135. Garry Winney was out for 9 but we had 2 in the bank. Mick McCormick returned and smashed a

few fours before being bowled for 43, with Jay Patel hitting a few crisp fours 9-171, Greg came out needing over 40 in 2 overs but was soon out.

All out 177 38 short of the target

Cricket is a game of inches. Minnet's bottom edge saved him, whilst Raga's inside edge didn't save his innings. Roseville played the better cricket in an enjoyable game, but had those two incidents been reversed, it would be a whole new ball game. That's cricket, and why we love the good with the bad in the game. *What if*is always the losers mindset.

The Team was (playing 12): - Sittampalam Ragavan 1, Ajoy Roy 25, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 14, John Mesar 3, Mick McCormick 43, Doraisamy Sripathmasri (Pat) 17, Greg Brooks 35, Kanagasabapathy Umasaran (Saran) 1, Peter Hall (w) 2, Garry Winney (c) 9, Jay Patel 21* (Georgiadis 12th dnb)

The Result was: -

Roseville C.C.: - 9-214 (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - all out 177 (38.5 overs)

By 37 runs.

FoW: - 1- 14 (S. Ragavan),2-36 (W. Hettiarachchi),3-41 (A. Roy),4-43 (J. Mesar),5-126 (K. Umasaran) ,6-127 (D. Sripathmasri),7-135 (G. Winney) 8-142 (P. Hall), 9-171 (M. McCormick,10- 177 (G. Brooks)

The Bowling was: - S. Ragavan 7-0-49-1, P. Georgiadis 7-1-26-0, M. McCormick 9-0-61-2, G. Brooks 9-2-21-4, G. Winney 6-0-44-1, J. Patel 2-0-8-1

(Wasanta Hettiarachchi injured his bowling finger & didn't bowl).

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: one to P. Hall

Catches: One catch to P. Hall (w) and one catch to both Mick McCormick and K. Umasaran

Run-outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to G. Brooks; 2 points to M. McCormick; 1 point to J. Patel

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v LANE COVE CAVALIERS AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER, 2016

Game cancelled by rain

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v BURWOOD C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 15 JANUARY, 2017: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A nice day's weather to play today after overnight rain. Thanks for the covers. We used a new wicket which had plenty of green tinges throughout. Burwood won the toss and batted. We had Keith Elloy and Mick McCormick back from their overseas jaunts (not paid by the taxpayers). Bandula Wijesinghe was also back from an injury earlier in the season.

The wicket seamed around all match, causing the bowlers on both teams to have huge smiles. Burwood batted first and Graham Buck and John Mesar opened the C.C.N.S.W. bowling,, both continually beating the bat but not getting the nick we needed. Their openers batted really well dispatching any short or overpitched deliveries. Mick McCormick and Stuart ridge came on with the same result, good line and length but no wickets. Bandula Wijesinghe copped a fierce pull shot at leg gully that smashed into his chest. The last thing he needed after a rib injury, but he was ok.

By drinks they were 0-66, with opener Deguard retired. Mark Ridge retired shortly after drinks.

Stuart Ridge then picked up our first wicket. Number 4 shouldered arms to an inswinger – out LBW 0.

Next over Mick McCormick picked up their No. 3 to a sharp one handed slips catch by Keith Elloy (who looked like he was calling out to the barman for another beer.) 2-73 with spin from Wasanta Hettiarachchi (“Wasa”) and Jay Patel now introduced. Suddenly the whole game changed. Within four overs Wasa took 4-11 all bowled.

They had collapsed to 6-94 with only Jeff Matchett (30* ret) holding their innings together. Peter Hall made a good stumping off Jay and they were now 7-109. Wasa took his fifth wicket from an outfield catch, making him only the second C.C.N.S.W. Classics player to take 5 wickets in a match.

Their openers recycled and again we couldn't get them out –They ended at 8-138 total. Good bowling and we put a few hard chances down, but overall we fielded well. Prianta Kariawasam stopped a few hard hit cover drives and Stuart Ridge's 'goal keeper' dive saved a sure boundary.

We opened up with Bandula Wijesinghe and Prianta Kariawasam. As expected the new ball seamed around. Bandula copped one that came back and just touched the bail; out for 0. Keith Elloy hit a lovely boundary but was out for 5 by a similar delivery. John Mesar got a rough lbw decision playing well forward to a swinging ball for 0, now 3-19. Prianta meanwhile had a brick wall defence and put away the poor deliveries. He and Mick McCormick got us back into the game until Mick managed to run himself out for 12, now 4-60 with Wasa next in. Drinks 4-65 & Prianta soon retiring for a well made 30*

Wasa and Peter Hall took to their next change bowlers with well placed ones and twos. Peter made a classic cover drive and a pull shots for consecutive boundaries. Wasa played in the arc with quick run twos before he retired at 30*. Now 4-102 with Garry Winney coming in. Peter Hall was soon out mistiming a pull shot for 24. Stuart Ridge came in. We had some luck when Garry had a leading edge pop up near Stu. The bowler swivelled to catch it but was blocked by Stu's body, and after avoiding him, couldn't reach the catch. Both settled in to work the one's (Garry 10 in a row) before Garry opened out with 10 off an over and it was left to Stu's thunderous cover drive to win us the match: - 5-140 off 36 overs.

They bowled well and we struggled at times but our batting depth got us home. Both teams shared a few good ales after the match. A good team effort highlighted by Wasa's all round brilliant game 5/26 and 30 * retired – a great double.

The Team was: - Bandula Wijesinghe 0, Prianta Kariawasam 30* ret, Keith Elloy 5, John Mesar 0, Mick McCormick 12, Wasantha Hettiarachchi 30* ret, Peter Hall (w) 24, Garry Winney (c) 23* Stuart Ridge 13*, Graham Buck dnb and Jay Patel dnb

The Result was: -

Burwood C.C.: 8-138 (W. Hettiarachchi 5-26) (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: 5-140 (P. Kariawasam 30* ret; W. Hettiarachchi 30* ret,) (36 overs)

By five wickets.

FoW: - 1- 0 (B. Wijesinghe); 2-13 (K. Elloy); 3-19 (J. Mesar) 4-60 (M. McCormick) 5-106 (P. Hall)

The Bowling was: - G. Buck 6-0-23-0; J. Mesar 8-0-40-0; M. McCormick 7-2-17-1; S. Ridge 7-1-12-1; W. Hettiarachchi 7-0-26-5 and J. Patel 5-1-15-1.

The fielding was: - Stumpings: One to P. Hall

Catches: - One to each of G. Buck and K. Elloy

Run-outs: - Nil

Player points: - 3 points to W. Hettiarachchi; 2 points to P. Kariawasam; 1 point to P.

CLASSICS ROUND 8 v WESTERN SUBURBS CAVALIERS C.C. AT BLAND OVAL, RIVERWOOD ON SUNDAY 29 JANUARY, 2017: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A warm day greeted us at the small ground but with longish grass, this meant fours hard to come by unless well struck and landing near the boundary. C.C.N.S.W. lost the toss but thankfully they decided to bowl (as one of their bowlers needed to leave early). We thought 200 to be a good score.

Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Prianta Kariawasam opened against a medium pace swing attack. Raga started with a crisp four then a lofted straight 6 as Prianta worked the singles until he lost patience and was bowled for 11 (1-33 off 8). John Mesar came in but we soon lost Raga for 27 caught off a full toss, a leading edge while going for a boundary, 2-42 then John was also caught off a leading edge for 2 (these big bats leading edges carry a long way these days). Now 3-44 and time for recovery needed. Mick McCormick and Bandula Wijesinghe did just that as they slowly got themselves settled in before hitting a few boundaries to have us 3-75 at drinks.

Bandula was stumped shortly after when he played over a leg-spinner which bounced over the keeper's gloves, hit him in the chest, flew in the air and landed on the bails – unlucky, out for a well compiled 16, 4-89. Mick and Wasantha Hettiarachchi ("Wasa") accelerated to a run a ball with lots of ones and twos and occasional boundaries until Mick retired at 30* (3x4), a well paced innings that was really needed. Ajoy Roy showed his intentions with a four and a 6. However Wasa was stumped for 19 but it was an impressive style of innings, 5-131.

Peter Hall and Ajoy did plenty of quick (?) singles until Ajoy in the humidity was unwell and retired hurt at 26*. Garry winney joined Peter and again the quick ones re-started. Peter hit a towering straight 6 and two crisp boundaries but was bowled for 22 going for the runs. Now 6-163 off 35 overs. Jay Patel came in; more ones until Garry was bowled hoiking for 7,

Now 7-175, until Paul Georgiadis and Jay added a rapid fire 19 to get a near par score 7-194. Jay scored a quick 25*. Paul was able to block the ball to the bowler, call a single, bowler missed the throw at the bowler's stumps resulting in an easy single, well played Paul.

With a defendable score, Raga and Paul Georgiadis opened bowling in their usual miserly ways, always a good line and length and stifle the runs. Paul took an early wicket clipping top of off stump, while they could only manage one boundary in the first 10 overs. Raga finally was rewarded bowling batsman No.3, now 2-27 off 11 overs. Paul followed up two overs later taking a sharp c & b wicket, 3-37. John Mesar and Mick McCormick continued the tight line process and by drinks they were 3-55.

John Mesar was unlucky to narrowly miss bowling out their No. 4 but got him next ball that cut back in, 4-68. One of their batsmen also suffered from the humidity and went off retired hurt. Mick then got his reward with the next bat out lbw for 0, 5-89. Now the spinners turn as Wasa and Jay Patel continued. Their tail plundered a few big hits but Peter Hall took a fine nick behind, then a stumping both off Jay. Garry Winney had a captain's over to finish off as they needed more than 36 off the last over. Peter Hall again did a fine stumping after nearly having his head knocked off by their No. 11 trying some Big Bash shots swinging wildly back through the keeper. Total 9-143

A good all round team effort by both our batsmen and the bowlers with Peter Hall's keeping a high standard as usual.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 27, Prianta Kariawasan 11, John Mesar 2, Mick McCormick 30* ret, not out; Bandula Wijesinghe 16, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 19, Ajoy Roy 26* ret hurt; Peter Hall 22, Garry Winney 7, Jay Patel 25*, Paul Georgiadis 2*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W: - 7-194 (M. McCormick 30* ret not out; A. Roy 26* ret hurt) (40 overs)

Defeated

Western Suburbs Cavaliers: - 9-143 (40 overs)

By 49 runs

FoW: - 1- 33 (P. Kariawasam), 2-42 (S. Ragavan), 3-44 (J. Mesar), 4- 89 (B. Wijesinghe), 5-131 (W. Hettiarachchi), 6-163 (P. Hall), 7-175 (G. Winney)

The Bowling was: - S. Ragavan 7-1-19-1, P. Georgiadis 8-1-21-2, J. Mesar 5-0-9-1, M. McCormick 6-0-25-1, W. Hettiarachchi 8-0-33-1, J. Patel 5-0-27-2, G. Winney 1-0-3-1

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Two to P. Hall (w)

Catches: one to P. Hall and one to P. Georgiadis

Run outs: Nil

Player points: - Three points to M. McCormick; Two points to W. Hettiarachchi ; One point to P. Hall.

CLASSICS ROUND 9 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, ON SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY, 2017: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

After two blistering hot days, a 30 degree day felt comfortable. We still have a few injured players out and it was good to see Ajoy Roy up and about after his stent operation last weekend. We won the toss and batted on the same wicket that had played so well a month ago. Little did we realise what was about to happen today.

Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Bandula Wijesinghe opened against two wily bowlers in Kevin Periera and Cuthbert Berenger. They summed up the conditions immediately. The ball kept low on anything short of a length which is where they bowled. Runs were a struggle, as the field grass was a bit longer as well. Bandula hit a ball wide of point but it stopped quickly, unfortunately quicker than Bandula expected and he was run out going for 2.

Raga next over was caught at cover, now 2-6. Wasanta Hettiarachchi and Mick McCormick now had to ready the ship. Wasa, batting no. three, was off the mark clipping a rare bad delivery for 4 (one of only 2 boundaries in the first 20 overs). Runs crept along until Mick was bowled for 4, 3-20 off 10 overs. John Mesar got another questionable lbw decision, 3-22. Keith Elloy and Wasa worked the ones to take us to drinks 4-38 and 100 was looking a long way off unless their lower bowlers were poor – it wasn't to be, they were all very capable bowlers.

We needed some acceleration of runs but they had other plans. Wasa was bowled for a well compiled 20, Keith also went bowled for a tidy 13, 6-46. Could we bat out the forty overs? Garry Winney and Prianta Kariawasam were able to stem the wickets flowing and both hit good boundaries off poor deliveries until Garry's leading edge to mid-on for 11, 7-67.

Worse was to come. Prianta was bowled for 9, next ball and Graham Buck caught behind off a faint edge cutting, now 9-68 off 33 overs. Jay Patel and Paul Georgiadis had a marvellous undefeated tenth wicket partnership based on sound defence and deft placement to get us to 9-88. Not a great score but it could have been much worse. Now we needed early wickets.

Most of our bats lost patience being tied down for much of their innings when they felt we needed quicker runs (which we did) but against a very good bowling line up, we managed to get ourselves out. All they needed was a good start and the game would be over.

Well, they underestimated how getting our two opening bowlers out cheaply would make Buck and John Mesar more determined to bowl the exact same way back to them. Bucky was moving the ball about and cleaned up their opener 1-7 after 2 overs. He repeated the dose next over, this time an lbw 2-8. John was slapped for two fours but bowled him for 8, 3-16 and we were on a roll. Bucky again bowled the next bat to have 3-2 off 3 overs. Now 4-16.

The next two bats played very cautious cricket and inched the score along until the twelfth over when Wasa took a sharp gully catch off John 5-34. Bucky joined in and removed the dangerous Kevin Pereira lbw 0, 6-35. We then had a two over period of inexplicable cricket. In the space of 10 balls we managed to drop 4 catches. None of them sitters but they all went to hand then ground, thankfully these lapses didn't cost us too much. Buck and Mesar were nearing the end of their spells but John was able to take a wicket in his last over, another lbw, 7-39.

Both bowled 9 overs straight, Buck 4-10, Mesar 3-25 only 3 fours in that period. They sure got us back into the game. Sri Lanka still had their best bat Cuthbert to come in. Raga and Mick McCormick took over. Mick was a bit all over the shop, whereas Raga's first ball a short ball outside off was crunched straight to the safe hands of Mick at cover 8-53.

Wasanta Hettiarachchi came on to hopefully remove their tall left hander who looked like he could smash balls a mile. Well he got him out but not how we expected; he smashed a ball out to near Mick McCormick then took on his arm – wrong person, Mick's throw from the boundary one bounce next to the stumps - out run out. 9-55. They now had their captain and their number 11 in – he was a tail end bat but had an excellent defence along with a lot of wild swings. He hit as many boundaries as our whole team. He had some near stumpings and catches but hit a quick fire 27*, Cuthbert batted sensibly giving him the strike while he was never troubled. They passed us 9 down off 28.5 overs.

I was always fearful that it would only take one bat to get going to win them the game and they do have 11 batsmen who could all play that sort of innings. It was just frustrating to only need that last wicket to make it an amazing escape of a win. But it was not to be. The better team won on the day.

A day where the ball absolutely dominated the bat. Special mention to Graham Buck and John Mesar who both bowled magnificently; they really stood tall when we needed them. As they say *'the one that got away'*. Still our only losses have been to teams above us in the table. Thanks to Keith Elloy who filled in for Peter Hall as keeper, he did the best he could. Wasa's innings was one of composure and stood out as our best bat on the day.

The Team was:- Sittampalam Ragavan 4; Bandula Wijesinghe 1, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 20; Mick McCormick 4; John Mesar 0; Keith Elloy (w) 13, Prianta Kariawasam 9; Garry Winney (c) 11; Jay Patel 11*; Graham Buck 0; and Paul Georgiadis 8*.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W: 9-88 (W. Hettiarachchi 20) (40 overs)

Lost to

Sri Lanka Lions: - 9-91 (G. Buck 4-10) (28 overs)

By one wicket

FoW (C.C.N.S.W.): - 1- 5 (B. Wijesinghe); 2-6 (S. Ragavan); 3-20 (M. McCormick); 4-22 (J. Mesar); 5-46 (K. Elloy); 6-46 (W. Hettiarachchi); 7-67 (G. Winney); 8-68 (G, Buck); 9-68 (P. Kariawasam).

FoW (Sri Lanka Lions): - 1-7 (R. Wijesinghe); 2- 8 (G. Mallawaratchy); 3-16 (C. Perera); 4-16 (T. George); 5-34 (U. Gunasena); 6-35 (K. Pereira); 7-39 (B. Parsons); 8-53 (D.A. De Silva); 9-55 (T. Bartholomeusz).

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 9-2-25-3; G. Buck 9-4-10-4; S. Ragavan 3-1-7-1; M/ McCormick 2-0-18-0; W. Hettiarachchi 1-0-8-0; J. Patel 3-0-10-0; and P. Georgiadis 1-0-2-0

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil
Catches: one each to M. McCormick and W. Hettiarachchi
Run outs: one to M. McCormick

Player Points: three points to G. Buck; two points to J. Mesar; one point to W. Hettiarachchi

CLASSICS ROUND 10 v KU-RING-GAI AT TURRAMURRA MEMORIAL OVAL, TURRAMURRA, ON SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 2017.

Cancelled due to rain; heavy rain continued overnight from the Saturday.

CLASSICS ROUND 11 v WARRINGAH CC AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2017: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Well after a week of rain we were lucky enough to get a fine weekend for cricket. We had 'El-Presidente' Greg Brooks and last match's star bowler Graham Buck come into the side for this match. Garry Winney wasn't feeling 100% on the day so Mick McCormick took over captaincy. Like Garry he lost the toss and bowled on a dry wicket with a beautiful looking outfield. John Lee our groundsman has done a great job with our wickets throughout the year.

Paul Georgiadis opened up bowling to Simon Lyons (*Ed note former C..C.N.S.W. member/ Sri Lanka tourist and Australian o60s cricketer*) – his first delivery had two balls bowled to Simon, greeted with – ‘*you having trouble with your eyes Simon?*’ by Paul – not all our games start off so light heartedly – but as the last game of the Classics season it was played in good spirits.

John Mesar got an lbw third ball 1-4, as they then worked the singles against a tight bowling spell, before hitting 10 off Paul's last over. Simon was soon run out by a good pick up and throw right next to the stumps by Paul as Graham Buck removed the bails, now 2-35 after twelve overs. The next two batsmen batted carefully as they advanced to 2-58 at drinks. Buck and Mick McCormick kept up the tight bowling until finally Bucky bowled their number 4, now 3-77. Wasanta Hettiarachchi (“Wasa”) and Jay Patel came on next; their number three retired which brought in the dangerous Russell Ludowycke (*Ed note former C..C.N.S.W. member and Sri Lanka tourist*) who immediately plonked Wasa over the short boundary for 6. Jay Patel struck back by removing their other batsman who top-edged a simple catch to Garry Winney, keeping wicket, 4-91 off 27 overs. Our old C.C.N.S.W. mate Ross Dagleish (*Ed note current C..C.N.S.W. member/Sri Lanka tourist*) came in; he hit some good shots except to the boundary riders till Jay got him out with a miscue to John Mesar at point,5-103. Jay soon bowled the next batsman before Ludowycke repeated the six dose to Wasa and retired. Their tail rallied, until John Mesar bowled one which brought the recycled batsmen back and they advanced the score to 8-155. A par sort of score where both teams felt they could win. Jay Patel's 3-18, and John Mesar's 2-24 were good rewards for fine bowling. Mick McCormick had a fine spell and should have had a wicket but the appeal was turned down.

Mick went for the kill from the outset sending in Mike Weaver and Wasa to open and take it up to them. After an almighty swoosh and miss Weaver hit the next ball a mile over cow corner followed up by another rocket to the fence 0-10, a sign of things to come. He repeated the dose with a six that went like a tracer bullet scattering our team sitting on the seats into all directions to save themselves. Unfortunately he was bowled next over 1-23 off 4 overs – a bright start. Wasa then played the innings of the year, as he pulled and drove fours at will perfectly bisecting the field. He looked completely in control of the bowling. He soon retired at 30* (5x4s) in a chanceless innings – 1-51 off 8 overs. Greg Brooks and Mick McCormick settled in with Greg's pull shot for 6 a highlight before he was adjudged lbw for a quick 13, 2- 69 off 12 overs. Mick played a captain's innings as he worked the ones and twos with the occasional slap to the boundary. John Mesar was out to a late outswinger for 6 quickly followed by Ajoy Roy mistiming a drive for 4, 4-102 with Prianta Kariawasam just in, 4-106 at drinks. A commanding position.

Prianta and Mick were chanceless until Mick retired at 30*, Jay Patel came and went for 0, then Prianta opened out with 3 quick fire boundaries for a well compiled 30* ret. We only needed a hand full of runs to go. Graham Buck was bowled for 0; Garry Winney hit a two then watched the next 5 balls pass as wides as we finished up 6-159. A good all round team performance.

Our final place of seventh was not a true indication of our season. We had two washouts while other teams played. Had we played (assuming 2 wins against the two bottom teams) we could have finished around about third. As it was we only lost to teams above us in the table and the losses were hard fought games. Well done to Premiers Georges River, we didn't play them this season but they are an emerging powerhouse of a club, winning twice in the last three seasons.

The Team was: - Mike Weaver 21, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 30*, Greg Brooks 13, Mick McCormick 30*, John Mesar 6, Ajoy Roy 4, Prianta Kariawasam 30*, Jay Patel 0, Paul Georgiadis 3*, Graham Buck 0, Garry Winney (c) and (w) 2*.

The Result was: -

Warringah C.C.: - 8-155 (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-159 (M. McCormick 30*; W. Hettiarachchi 30*, P. Kariawasam 30*) (34 overs)

By 4 wickets

F.O.W.: - 1-23 (M. Weaver) 2-69 (G. Brooks) 3-98 (J. Mesar) 4-102 (A. Roy) 5-129 (J. Patel) 6-149 (G. Buck)

The Bowling was: - P. Georgiadis 6-0-24-0; J. Mesar 8-1-24-2; G. Buck 9-1-35-1; M. McCormick 7-0-28-0; W. Hettiarachchi 4-0-21-0 and J. Patel 6-1-19-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: one each to G. Winney (w), G. Buck and J. Mesar

Run outs: one to G. Buck and one to P. Georgiadis

Player Points: - 3 points to W. Hettiarachchi; 2 points to J. Patel; one point to M. McCormick

Sydney Masters Cricket Association - Sydney Classics Over 50s FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 2016-2017

RANK	TEAM	P	W	D	L	WKTS LOST	RUNS FOR	WKTS TAKEN	RUNS AGST	POINTS
1	Georges River	11	9	0	2	66	1556	101	1259	369.80
2	Mandalong Lawyers	11	9	0	2	68	1170	97	1231	352.50
3	Lindfield	11	8	1	2	71	1376	97	1298	346.80
4	Sri Lanka Lions	11	8	0	3	71	1394	87	1268	337.70
5	Mosman	11	8	0	3	67	1585	87	1470	336.25

6	Kenthurst Upper Hills	11	7	0	4	78	1393	94	1184	310.65
7	Cricketers' Club of New South Wales	11	4	3	4	68	1509	74	1463	279.45
8	Roseville	11	5	0	6	96	1638	81	1694	265.90
9	Parramatta	11	5	0	6	89	1352	78	1395	247.60
10	Kuringai	11	4	1	6	77	1115	76	1156	234.75
11	Warringah	11	4	0	7	86	1118	55	1128	210.90
12	Burwood Briars	11	3	1	7	64	1261	64	1268	207.05
13	Ashfield DLS Old Boys Briars	11	3	1	7	86	1077	67	1233	203.85
14	Pennant Hills	11	3	0	8	98	1243	77	1468	199.15
15	Western Suburbs Cavaliers Cricket Club	11	2	1	8	94	1306	61	1463	186.30
16	Lane Cove	11	1	2	8	80	1202	63	1317	183.10