

Sydney Masters Cricket Association - Sydney Classics Over 50s

RANK	TEAM	P	W1	D	L1	WKTS LOST	RUNS FOR	WKTS TAKEN	RUNS AGST	POINTS
1	SriLanka Lions	11	9	2	0	57	1438	85	1212	386.90
2	Georges River	11	8	3	0	62	1567	73	827	378.35
3	Lindfield	11	7	3	1	48	1000	72	1114	332.00
4	Roseville	11	5	3	3	61	1118	84	1144	304.90
5	Mosman	11	5	3	3	64	1521	59	1202	302.05
6	Cricketers' Club of New South Wales	11	5	3	3	51	1304	60	1236	285.20
7	Mandalong Lawyers	11	5	2	4	66	1157	80	1100	282.85
8	Burwood Briars	11	4	3	4	53	1375	68	1345	278.75
9	Lane Cove	11	4	3	4	61	1468	64	1194	277.40
10	Kuringai	11	4	2	5	69	1010	76	1226	249.50
11	Kenthurst Upper Hills	11	4	2	5	79	1147	63	1243	243.35
12	Western Suburbs Cavaliers Cricket Club	11	3	3	5	67	1082	67	1522	243.10
13	Warringah	11	2	3	6	73	1093	59	1677	213.65
14	Parramatta Golden Oldies	11	1	3	7	68	1063	47	1139	182.15
15	De La Salle (College Ashfield) Old Boys	11	0	3	8	76	1197	40	1206	159.85
16	Pennant Hills	11	1	1	9	97	1283	55	1436	159.15

Last re-calculated: Mar 14, 2018 3:38AM (local time)

CLASSICS ROUND 1 v ASHFIELD DE LA SALLE OLD BOYS AT ROTHWELL PARK, CONCORD, ON SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER, 2017 REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A lovely setting for a game, their new two storey clubhouse is exactly what we need at Camperdown oval. Seating overlooking the game, a scorers bench, fridge, hot water, plenty of space to watch, chat and after the game socialising with some BBQ sandwiches.

The wicket was like a road. We won the toss and batted. Unfortunately our numbers 1, 3 & 4 bats were running late so the top order was re-arranged. Thankfully we have the players to fill in. Sittampalam Ragavan (*Raga*) and Wasantha Hettiarachchi (*Wasa*) opened up against some tight bowling from Naylor 2-7 off 8 overs. Both got off the mark with boundaries on a fast well grassed outfield.

Wasa faced more of the second bowler and was able to hook and drive for runs. Raga played cautiously until missing a leg side drive and was given out lbw (1-22). Bandula Wijesinghe came in and batted to captain's instructions, work the ones, and put away the bad balls.

They added quick runs until Wasa was yorked and bowled for a well compiled 22, now 2-47 off 15 overs.

Craig Somers came in and his timing and placement of his shots made runs look effortless. Bandula flicked a few nice boundaries off his pads and they added 35 in the next 5 overs. Drinks 2-82. Craig retired (5x4) as did Bandula (5x4). Mick McCormick and Michael Weaver put the accelerator down and added 75 in the next 10 overs through well timed forceful shots. Mick clubbed a huge 6 to retire on 32 shortly followed by Weaves' 5th boundary to retire. Garry James flicked a nice 4 off his pads before being caught having a go, John Mesar worked the ones as Garry Winney hit up a quick 16 until out to a leading edge, John was 18* as we finished 4-216 in a solid batting effort.

With a good total to defend we needed early wickets. That never happened. Their top seven bats all came out in aggressive moods and with a lot of lusty blows that never seem to land in a fielder's hands they took it right up to us. Stuart Ridge was the pick of the bowling maintaining a good line and length. He bowled their first bat 1-37 off 11 overs.

Paul Georgiadis bowled well but the occasional bad ball went for four. He was unlucky not to have a stumping. We really missed Peter Hall's efficiency today. Raga and Garry Winney shared the duties but are a few classes below Peter's standard.

John Mesar and Garry James came on but they too got hit around. Garry could have had 5 wickets today but balls bouncing over the stumps, umpteen balls landing first bounce to fielders and frustrated all of us. He bowled well but without luck. John picked up a deserved catch by Weaves at point as drinks were then taken at 2-81. John resumed and Wasa came on, with Waa picking up a wicket second ball, bowled, now 3-83 but runs kept on flowing until Garry James finally got one through the bat that hit the stumps 4-120 off 25 overs. All their lower order batted well throwing caution to the wind and on a good wicket swept, hoiked, and played some classic drives for fours. Craig Somers did numerous full length dives (something strange to see from Classics' players) to save fours which in the end could have been the difference. They needed 75 of the last 10 overs which was soon 41 off 5 overs then 19 off the last over. Mick had a good spell without luck but it was left to Stuart Ridge to shut them down. Thankfully he did. Ashfield 5-204 in a valiant run chase.

We got some positives out of the day but we still cannot bowl teams out.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan (w) 6, Bandula Wijesinghe 22, Wasantha Hettiarachchi 30*, Craig Somers 31*, Mick McCormick 32*, Mike Weaver 33*, John Mesar 18* Garry James 7, Garry Winney (c) and (w) 16, Stuart Ridge 0* and Paul Georgiadis dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4 - 216 (40 Overs) (M. Weaver 33*; M. McCormick 32*; C. Somers 31*; W. Hettiarachchi 30*)

Defeated

Ashfield De La Salle Old Boys: - 5 - 204 (40 Overs)

By 12 runs

FoW: - 1- 22 (S. Ragavan); 2-47 (W. Hettiarachchi); 3-186 (G. James); 4-210 (G. Winney);

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 9-3-23-2, P. Georgiadis 6-0-24-0, J. Mesar 6-1-25-1, G. James 8-0-62-1, M. McCormick 7-0-36-0, W. Hettiarachchi 3-0-15-1

The Fielding was: -

No stumpings

1 catch to M. Weaver

No run out

Player Points: - 3 points B Wijesinghe ; 2 points M. Weaver ; 1 point M. McCormick

**CLASSICS ROUND 2 v MANDALONG AT MANDALONG OVAL,
MANDALONG ON SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER, 2017: REPORT BY MICK
McCORMICK**

No report has been received

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 13, Craig Somers , Bandula Wijesinghe 5, Mick McCormick (c) 13, Mike Weaver (w) 7, Wasantha Hettiarachchi 14, Garry Winney 0, Garry James 29. Stuart Ridge 5, Michael Knox 7 and Paul Georgiadis 4*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-108 – (G. James 29) (37.1 overs)

Lost to

Mandalong: - 8-109 (39.1 overs)

By 2 wickets

FoW: - 1- 21 (C. Somers); 2-22 (S. Ragavan); 3- 28 (B. Wijesinghe); 4-43 (M. Weaver); 5-47 (M. McCormick); 6-47 (G. Winney); 7-85 (W. Hettiarachchi); 8-93 (G. James); 9-101 (S. Ridge); 10-108 (M. Knox).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 9-4-11-3; M. Knox 8-2-22-2; M. McCormick 6-0-24-1; G. James 7-0-26-1; W. Hettiarachchi 7-0-17-1; P. Georgiadis 3-0-11-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumping; 1 to M. Weaver

Catches: Nil

Run outs: Nil

Player points: - 3 points to G. James; 2 points to M. Knox; 1 point to S Ridge

**CLASSICS ROUND 3 v MOSMAN C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER , 2017:**

Game cancelled by rain

**CLASSICS ROUND 4 v KENTHURST CC AT KENTHURST ON SUNDAY 19
NOVEMBER, 2017: REPORT BY PAUL GEORGIADIS**

Kenthurst Park was in great shape for the middle of the table clash between two teams each having one loss, one draw and one win from the first three matches of the season. There was no disappointment from the outset to what turned out to be a sea sawing and hard fought close match.

Kenthurst won the toss and batted first. Stuart Ridge and Mick Knox opened the bowling. Anything short was punished but Stuart's pacey line and length had the openers in some difficulty and he bowled one of the openers in his second over. Stuart's first four overs were maidens and he finished his five over spell with the figures of 1 for 4. By the tenth over the home team had progressed to be 1 for 30. Paul Georgiadis and John Mesar took over the bowling but there was no further breakthrough the score progressing to 59 by the end of the seventeenth over.

Enter Dale Richards (a welcome return to the Classics ranks after a year away) who took a wicket (LBW) in his second over - Kenthurst now 2 for 63. Then Mick McCormick introduced himself into the attack with immediate impact. His first over was memorable in that he took 2 wickets - both fine catches by John Mesar in the slips and all of a sudden Kenthurst were 4 for 65 at drinks. Mick's second (and last) over was also memorable but for a different reason as there were a total of 9 deliveries and 17 runs added to the total. That was not entirely Mick's fault though as Paul Jackson who came to the crease for Kenthurst unleashed some powerful shots against Mick and Dale's bowling.

It was time for the spinners to come on and reduce the run rate which Jay Patel and Garry James did very well. Jay snagged two wickets and Garry three so that by the thirty seventh over Kenthurst were 9 down for 142. It looked as if the end total would be very manageable.

Stuart Ridge was brought back into the attack and he and Garry had what proved to be the unenviable task of bowling the last three overs to two Kenthurst retirees who swung at everything. In the last 3 overs 41 runs was added to take the score to 183. The Kenthurst retirees ended up on 63* and 55*.

By comparison, the C.C.N.S.W. batting was more measured and steady throughout the innings (other than a mishap at 101 when two wickets fell without addition to the score) with solid contributions from Craig Somers, Mick McCormick, Mick Weaver, Dale Richards and Stuart Ridge resulting in the required target being reached in the thirty eighth over. In the end, a good team win.

The Team was (playing 12): - Craig Somers (w) 34*, Bandula Wijesinghe 2, Ajoy Roy 9, Mick McCormick (c) 20, John Mesar 4, Mike Weaver 32*, Jay Patel 0, Garry James 7, Dale Richards 26, Stuart Ridge 28*, Paul Georgiadis 0 and Michael Knox dnb

The Result was: -

Kenthurst C.C.: - 9-183 () (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-185 (C. Somers 34*; M. Weaver 32*) (37.3 overs)

By 2 wickets

FoW: - 1- 11 (B Wijesinghe); 2-57 (A. Roy); 3-86 (M. McCormick); 4-101 (J. Patel); 5-101 (J. Mesar); 6-128 (G. James) 7-154 (D. Richards); 8-168 (P. Georgiadis)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-4-24-1, M. Knox 5-0-22-0, P. Georgiadis 3-0-11-0, J. Mesar 4-0-18-0, D. Richards 4-1-22-1 M. McCormick 2-0-18-2, J. Patel 7-0-21-2, G. James 8-2-31-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: One to Craig Somers

Catches: 2 to J. Mesar and one each to D. Richards and A. Roy

Run-outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to C. Somers; 2 points to M. Weaver ; 1 point to G. James

**CLASSICS ROUND 5 v PENNANT HILLS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER, 2017: REPORT BY PAUL
GEORGIADIS**

It was a gloriously sunny day at Camperdown for the match against Pennant Hills who had not yet won a match this season. That was somewhat surprising given that the team had quite a few familiar players of considerable ability but we were not willing to let them have their first win at our expense just because it was getting close to Christmas. There were however to be a number of other firsts that are memorable.

Our regular captain (Mick McCormick) was absent being the first volunteer/casualty (?) of the recently announced rotation policy. Accordingly it fell upon our vice-captain Craig Somers to be the tosser. Another first occurred as Craig using a two headed penny for the toss which was anonymously provided by one of our players. Neither captain noticed the irregularity of the coin. The visiting team won the toss by calling heads and then sent us in to bat. The umpire also failed to notice the irregularity of the coin and some in our team) such as Bandula Wijesinghe who was given out LBW later in the match) might say that is not surprising.

As has been customary, Sittampalam Ragavan ("*Raga*") and Craig opened the batting with Raga to face the first delivery. We are used to seeing Raga start his innings aggressively and this occasion was no different except that the first delivery was a full toss that Raga tried to hit to the airport but unfortunately only managed to edge it onto his stumps. The visitors had us 1 for 0 off 1 ball and duly celebrated as at that point in time they were on top.

There joy was short lived and replaced by reality when Ajoy Roy who was next in (a lot earlier than he had expected) hit the next delivery for 4. There were 3 byes as well so at the end of the first over the score was 1 for 7 which was a very healthy run rate. Ajoy hit 4 fours in compiling his 21 runs before being bowled by a yorker in the ninth over with the score at 39 and Craig on 14.

Bandula Wijesinghe was next in and hit a great cut shot for 4 but two balls later was given out LBW – 3 for 49 after eleven overs. Craig who had been starved of the strike was still on 14. Wasanta Hettiarachchi ("*Wasan*") was next in and he and Craig consolidated the innings with Craig retiring shortly for 30* before the drinks break the score reaching 3 for 94 after twenty overs.

With the platform set, Wasan, (Michael) Weaver and (Garry) Winney (try saying that 3 times quickly) attacked the bowling and each retired taking the score to 3 for 150 odd in the thirtieth over. John Mesar batted with a sore back scored a valuable 26* before retiring hurt and being unable to field. As we had twelve players that was not a problem for the team. Garry James then tried to glide the first delivery he was to face through the vacant slips area but glided it straight into the waiting gloves of the grateful keeper. This left Stuart Ridge and Jay Patel to push along the scoring until Stuart was out in the thirty sixth over (5 for 195).

Craig Somers then re-entered the field but left without adding to his score and Wasan returned to the crease and at the end was 45* with Jay Patel run out on the last ball for 12. The visitors would need to get 226 runs for victory.

Stuart Ridge opened the bowling and after five deliveries the score was 9 without loss. Next delivery though was Stuart's first wicket (c & b) so 1 for 9 after one over was a lot better. Thereafter Stuart's line and length were good and Paul Georgiadis was reasonably inexpensive at the other end bowling nine overs straight. Raga came on to bowl and he too bowled a good line and length. After twenty overs the visitors were 2 for 63 needing just over 8 an over for the win. That was never going to happen given the tight bowling from Garry James, Jay Patel and

Wasanta Hettiarachchi and the lack of any concerted effort on the part of the Pennant Hills batsmen to attack.

In the end a comfortable and good team win with the visitors ending up being 7 for 141 after 40 overs.

The Team was (playing 12): - Sittampalam Ragavan (w) 0, Craig Somers (c) 30, Ajoy Roy 21, Bandula Wijesinghe 7, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 45*, Mike Weaver (w) 31*, Garry Winney 30*, John Mesar 25* (Ret hurt), Garry James 0, Stuart Ridge 14, Jay Patel 12 and Paul Georgiadis dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-225 (W. Hettiarachchi 45*; M. Weaver 31*; G. Winney 30*; C. Somers 30) (40 overs)

Defeated

Pennant Hills C.C.: 7- 141 (40 overs)

By 84 runs

FoW: - 1- 0 (S. Ragavan); 2- 39 (A. Roy); 3- 49 (B. Wijesinghe); 4- 164 (G. James); 5- 195 (S. Ridge); 6- 205 (C. Somers); 7- 225 (J. Patel)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-1-33-2; P. Georgiadis 9-0-27-1; S. Ragavan 8-1-22-0; G. James 9-1-27-2; J. Patel 4-0-14-2; W. Hettiarachchi 3-0-11-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: One to S. Ragavan

Catches: One catch to each of W. Hettiarachchi and S. Ridge

Run-outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to M. Weaver; 2 points to C. Somers ; 1 point to W. Hettiarachchi

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v LANE COVE CAVALIERS AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER, 2016 REPORT BY PAUL GEORGIADIS

An overcast humid day and a firm green wicket at Kingsford Smith Oval Longueville had those capable of swinging the ball anxious to start bowling. Our team had 9 bowlers in it so clearly not all were likely to get a bowl and even less likely to bowl 9 overs.

Lane Cove won the toss and chose to bat first. Stuart Ridge started the attack and Paul Georgiadis in his second ball had one of the openers playing out of his crease. Craig Somers took a sharp stumping to have the home team 1 for 9. Stuart bowled the other opener in his second over leaving Lane Cove reeling at 2 for 12 after 2.5 overs. Paul kept it tight with good line and length trying to prevent the batsmen hitting to the short boundary leaking a modest 8 runs from his four overs. Stuart was a little more expensive but the batsmen were having difficulty handling his pace, bounce and movement off the pitch.

Lane Cove's No. 3 batsman (ably supported by their No. 4 batsmen and captain) started to attack the bowling (of John Mesar and Joe Scarcella) hitting a number of boundaries including a towering 6 into the tennis courts. Fortunately there was no one playing tennis at the time but it meant that the ball could not be retrieved. A replacement ball had to be found and the umpire

was requested to warn the batsman that if he did that again it would be 6 and out. In the spirit of Classics cricket the umpire obliged. This lifted the total to 77 runs at the 20 over mark for the loss of 2 wickets.

Spin (in the form of Garry James) was introduced to curb the scoring rate. This was very effective with Garry finishing 9 straight overs for 19 runs whilst Dale Richards conceded 11 runs in his 4 overs.

Lane Cove had steadily progressed the score to 2 for 128 in the thirty third over and seemed set to launch an attack but Mick McCormick chipped in with 7 overs and collected three wickets. Stuart Ridge was re-introduced taking a wicket in each of his last three overs finishing with impressive figures of 4 for 29 off eight overs. Stuart's four victims were all bowled as were Mick's three. Lane Cove compiled 152 runs from their forty overs (a rate of say 4 an over required) which was a score that was considered to be a relatively easy target but sometimes those low scores can prove difficult.

Raga (Sittampalam Ragavan) and Craig Somers opened the batting. Second ball and Raga was off the mark with a single. Two balls later Craig was off the mark with a 4 and the run chase was on in earnest with 7 off the first over. Lane Cove bowling was tight after that and at the tenth over the score was 38 without loss. A steady start for sure but Raga suddenly decided that the scoring rate needed a nudge and his last 5 scoring shots were all boundaries which required him to retire on 33* and Ajoy Roy entered the field. Ajoy was out caught and bowled for 5 and the less said about that the better but at 1 for 58 in the thirteenth over we were just ambling along at the required run rate. Wasantha Hettiarachchi was next in and left LBW with the score at 2 for 60 in the fifteenth over. Craig Somers was on 22 at the time.

Mick McCormick then went to the crease and started to compile a valuable knock and was joined by John Mesar when Craig retired on 31*. When John was bowled with the score at 94 after twenty five overs we had fallen behind the required run rate. Dale Richards entered and he and Mick started to increase the scoring rate and when Mick retired Garry James came in and hit two fours and a 6 in his innings of 15 but holed out in attempting to finish the game off. Stuart Ridge entered and was caught behind off the first ball he faced. Jay Patel was next in and saw off the hat trick ball. At 5 for 144 in the thirty fourth over we needed 13 runs from six overs to secure the victory but no need to panic as Dale was still at the crease on 22 and playing well and Jay can bat. After 4 runs in the thirty fifth over we were 5 for 148 needing 9 runs from the remaining five overs. Some in the stands were getting a little nervous and some who thought they would not need to bat were starting to pad up.

But then .. 1 run was scored in the thirty sixth over and 1 run in the thirty seventh over and Jay was out - Dale was still 22*. We were now 6 for 150 off thirty seven overs - the equation had become 7 needed off three overs. Surely we were not going to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory?!

Paul Georgiadis joined Dale at the crease and the thirty eighth over yielded 3 runs but the thirty ninth over only yielded 1 run - 3 runs would be needed off the last over. It was hit and run time and Dale hit the first ball for a single and the batsmen scampered to the other end. Unfortunately Dale pulled up with an injured calf and had to retire hurt with five balls to go and 2 runs needed for victory. This brought Raga our first retiree back to the crease at the non-striker's end and had our second retiree (Craig) scurrying to find his pads just in case he was needed. Paul hit the next delivery to a diving mid on for a single which brought Raga on strike with the scores level and four balls to go. Raga hit the next delivery and again a mad dash for the single - three singles of the first three balls from the 40th over resulted in victory with Raga fittingly hitting the first scoring shot of the day and the last. A victory with three balls to spare - Lane Cove were clearly never in the contest.

The Team was (playing 12): Sittampalam Ragavan (w) 34*, Craig Somers (w) 31*, Ajoy Roy 5, Wasantha Hettiarachchi 0, Mick McCormick (c) 30*, John Mesar 6, Dale Richards (retired)

injured) 25*, Garry James 15, Stuart Ridge 0, Jay Patel 3, Paul Georgiadis 3* and Joe Scarcella dnb.

The Result was: -

Lane Cove C.C.: 8-156 (S. Ridge 4-29) (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: 6-157 (Sittampalam Ragavan 34*, C. Somers 34*, M. McCormick 30*, D Richards 25*) (39.3 overs)

By 4 wickets

FoW: 1-58 (A. Roy); 2-60 (W. Hettiarachchi); 3-94 (J Mesar); 4-144 (G James); 5-144 (S. Ridge); 6-150 (J. Patel)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 8-0-29-4, P. Georgiadis 4-0-8-1, J. Mesar 2-0-17-0, J. Scarcella 4-0-21-0, G. James 9-1-19-0, D. Richards 3-1-11-0, M. McCormick 7-0-31-3, J. Patel 2-0-8-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: C Somers 1

Catches: Nil

Run-outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to S. Ridge; 2 points to C. Somers; 1 point to M. McCormick .

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v BURWOOD C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 14 JANUARY, 2018: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A beautiful day, but very gusty winds greeted this fourth v fifth on the table clash on a good batting wicket. Burwood would bat first.

Both openers played carefully but Deguara was severe on any loose balls and started to carve up the attack. He retired 30* with the score 0-34. Stuart Ridge removed the other opener LBW now 1-43. Mark Ridge came in and he and Garry James then had a great tussle, as Mark had most of the strike against Garry, getting the occasional runs but not getting on top of him while Garry couldn't find a way through his defences. Mick McCormick was also keeping it tight. Sittampalam Ragavan (*'Raga'*) had an uncomfortable moment when at short mid-wicket he was hit in the *'goolies'* by a powerful pull shot landing just in front of him. Shouts off *'is there a doctor in the house'* didn't make him feel any better. Garry got the other bat Lucas out on the last ball before drinks following a neat stumping by Mike Weaver and we went to the break at 2-66.

Jeff Matchett came to the crease and danced down the pitch and hit 3 well timed boundary shots off Garry to start their fight back. He also did this to Wasanta Hettiarachchi (*'Wasa'*) and hit up a quick 30* retired. Dave Benson came on and slowed the scoring down so they attacked Wasa but he soon had a second stumping from *'Weaves'* followed not long after by a third stumping by Weaves – having a field day behind the stumps. Stuart Ridge came back on and again dried up their runs before getting a good bowled wicket. They finished up 5-161 a 'par' score for the day.

We opened with Raga and Ajoy Roy against a good attack that give away very little. Raga hit a nice boundary but was soon out lbw for 4, 1-9. Wasa and Ajoy were able to hit a few fours

through pull shots, drives, cuts as they attacked the bowling. Ajoy had us worried after running a three and pulled up a bit distressed – we haven't got a defibrillator yet, but he was ok to continue and soon retired at 30*. Garry James strode to the crease on a mission; he had to leave early and he meant business to score quick runs. From ball one he timed his shots and smashed the attack to all parts of the field in a very impressive 32* retired, injuring two fielders trying to catch very firmly hit drives. He put us well ahead of the scoring rate.

Mick McCormick came after Garry James retired but played down the wrong line and was bowled for 1, now 2-81. We then welcomed back Peter Rolls after over a year out following a shoulder operation. He hit the ball like he had been playing all season as he and Wasa kept up the run rate. Wasa had played second fiddle to Garry earlier on as he also accumulated a chanceless 30* retired. Peter was then out lbw to Jeff Matchett's probing offies for a solid 18, a good hit out in the middle for his first game back. This left Weaves and Dave Benson (our two youngsters) to take cheeky quick singles against a tiring and bruised attack to take us to victory after 33.2 overs.

A convincing team win against a very capable side. We now have a few games against the top tier clubs which will see whether we are premierships contenders or not.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 4, Ajoy Roy 30*, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 30 *, Garry James 32*, Mick McCormick (c) 1, Peter Rolls 18, Mike Weaver (w) 32*, David Benson 10*, Bandula Wijesinghe dnb, Garry Winney dnb, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

Burwood C.C.: 5-161 (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: 3-163 (G. James 32*, M Weaver 32*, A. Roy 30*; W. Hettiarachchi 30*) (33.2 overs)

By 7 wickets.

FoW: - 1- 9 (S. Ragavan); 2- 81 (M. McCormick); 3- 126 (P. Rolls)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 9-1-33-2; S. Ragavan 4-0-16-0; G. James 9-1-31-0 M. McCormick 6-0-14-1, D. Benson 5-0-19-0, W. Hettiarachchi 7-0-42-2

The fielding was: - Stumpings: 3 to M. Weaver
Catches: - Nil
Run-outs: - Nil

Player points: - 3 points to G James; 2 points to W. Hettiarachchi; 1 point to A. Roy.

CLASSICS ROUND 8 v SRI LANKAN LIONS C.C. AT MONTY BENNETT OVAL, WENTWORTHVILLE ON SUNDAY 28 JANUARY, 2017: REPORT BY PETER ROLLS

The Brilliant and the Butchered: A tale of two innings.

They say it is not whether you win or lose but how you play the game....but losing sucks!!! Especially when you put in a great effort in the field against the top team and bowl them out cheaply.

A beautiful day not too hot but more humid than a wharf's armpit. Sri Lanka Lions won the toss and batted. A top notch cricket pitch and immaculate carpet outfield with short boundary that was quicker than Donald Trump's tweets on Kim Jong-il's nuclear threats.

Paul Georgiadis struck in the second over (his first over) with their opener trying to sweep a good length ball, caught at backward point by Craig Somers who had time to think of what spicy Sri Lankan treats he was going to have for afternoon tea. 1 for 7. Paul had it on a string as they took more lofted chances to try to get luckier than Shane Warne dating Liz Hurley. 9 overs straight for a miserly 23 runs.

Stuart Ridge struck in the fifth over (his third over) with a well disguised slower ball that took out the other opener's off stump. 2 for 9. He had an amazing first spell of five overs with two maidens and a total of eight tight overs for 13 runs.

The third wicket was the best catch I have seen in Classics - by Mick McCormick at gully diving full stretch to his right, hand above his head and with feet off the ground. Miraculous! Stu commented it was his first field assisted wicket in Classics! 3 for 23.

Fourth wicket a superb chase and throw by Wasanta Hettiarachchi ('Wasa') from 30 metres out behind point to throw down the stumps for a run out. 4 for 24.

Fifth wicket another superb pickup and throw by Wasa at fine leg to get their danger man out going for two. 5 for 53.

Sixth wicket a simple mid wicket catch by Peter Rolls off a leading edge from a one legged Jim Hadley (with more bandage on his left leg than Tutankhamen) who bowled some unplayable leggies. 6 for 74.

Seventh wicket was caught behind by a reliable Michael Weaver ('Weaves') for the first wicket for Michael Knox ('Knoxy') who was juggling the ball around like a salsa dancer without undies. 7 for 108.

Eighth wicket was second caught behind by Weaves with a fine nick from an attempted cut shot off Wasa. 8 for 108. David Benson ('Benno') bowled a single over before Wasa to change the pace like a Dougie Walters.

Ninth wicket saw Knoxy clean bowl their 12 year old (grandson fill-in) with a bigger celebration than a twenty first birthday party! 9 for 110.

In came their only retiree who was a tower of a man and big hitter. Bang!! ..., three fours in a row and we couldn't get him off strike. Knoxy took some punishment but stuck to his line to be rewarded with a brilliant towering outfield catch by Captain Mick to have the League leaders all out for 128 in 33 overs.

Our innings started like New Year's Eve with Craig Somers hitting two cracking 4s off the first over and Jim Hadley's big bang straight hit for six into the next park off the first ball of the second over. Jim went for one too many swooshes to be caught at mid off in the second over and in the fourth over Craig was run out by mistaking Ajoy Roy for a Usain Bolt.

From there wickets continued to tumble regularly as we failed to be patient and wait for the bad ball. To the Lions' credit they kept a good line and length when we were chasing after their bowlers and they varied their attack.

Dale Richards showed some good resistance at the tail with some delightful strokes but he too succumbed to the quick single and unfortunately pulled his calf muscle again. Out for the rest of the season and more physio... ouch! Hope he has a speedy recovery.

All out for 99. Message: Patience is a virtue! But at least we were patient at hanging around for a cold beer with the Lions in a jovial atmosphere. It is a game after all and we are lucky to be still fit enough to play.

The Team was (playing 12): - Craig Somers 10, Jim Hadley 10, Ajoy Roy 4, David Benson 5, Mick McCormick (c) 1, Michael Weaver (w) 19, Peter Rolls 2, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 17, Dale Richards 18, Michael Knox 1, Stuart Ridge 3*, and Paul Georgiadis (dnb)

The Result was: -

Sri Lanka Lions: - **10-128** (33.4 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W: - **10-99** (34.1 overs)

By 29 runs

FoW: - 1-18 (J. Hadley); 2-24 (C. Somers); 3-31 (A. Roy); 4-35 (M. McCormick); 5-35 (D. Benson); 6-40 (P. Rolls); 7-75 (W. Hettiarachchi); 8-79 (M. Weaver); 9-90 (M. Knox); 10-99 (D. Richards).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 8-3-13-2; P. Georgiadis 9-0-23-1; J. Hadley 6-0-34-1; M. Knox 7.4-0-36-3; D. Benson 1-0-4-0; W. Hettiarachchi 2-0-5-1

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: 2 catches to each of M. McCormick and M. Weaver

One catch to each of P. Rolls and C. Somers

Run outs: 2 to W. Hettiarachchi

Player points: - Three points to S. Ridge; Two points to M. Knox; One point to M. Weaver.

**CLASSICS ROUND 9 v ROSEVILLE C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 2018:**

The game was called off because of overnight rain on an uncovered pitch. We had been unable to gain access on the Saturday afternoon to the shed where the covers are stored

**CLASSICS ROUND 10 v KU-RING-GAI C.C. AT TURRAMURRA
MEMORIAL OVAL, TURRAMURRA, ON SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 2018:**

Game cancelled by rain

**CLASSICS ROUND 11 : v GEORGES RIVER AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 11 MARCH, 2018: REPORT BY MICK
McCORMICK**

A perfect day greeted the players as they ambled down to Camperdown Oval for the final game against second placed Georges River just 6 points behind the leaders, the Sri Lankan Lions.

Luckily the Barnaby Joyce of electronic door opening systems (needs to go) actually opened the sheds in spite of regularly having the practicality of a sashimi BBQ. A spattering of youthful sunbakers on the surrounding banks, taking advantage of the remnants of summer, provided considerable ocular nourishment for the players.

An overdue win of the toss allowed C.C.N.S.W. to finally bat first.

Craig Somers and Sittampalam Ragavan ("*Raga*") opened the batting against some accurate bowling but on a solid Camperdown pitch. Craig was timing the ball well though the extra thickness of the outfield saw boundaries dry up like a Cape town garden. *Raga* was given out to a marginal LBW for 11. Peter Rolls returned to his customary position of number three and was cruising along with Craig until he received a bamboozling stumping decision. With his foot firmly anchored a foot behind the crease he was given out stumped after a sharp piece of work from the keeper. The umpire seemed compelled to reward the keeper for his quick work even though an ant could not have traversed under the sole of Pete's foot. Pete rightly was shocked and would be justified in asking for his \$5 back for payment for the provision of a second umpire (so much for any advantage there).

Mick McCormick then joined Craig until Craig retired for a very well composed 32*. Debutant Glenn Mortell came to the crease. Quickly the mid pitch chats were dominated by niggles that had quickly affected both players whilst running between wickets..... a calf, a string, a groinery.

They battled on. Mick took advantage of the close in field with some calculated airborne shots and on 29 drove a maximum, to retire on 35*. Glenn then smacked the looser deliveries and retired on 30* An excellent innings in view of his lack of cricket over the last few years.

Wasanta Hettiarachchi ("*Wasa*") played some finely timed shots but picked out the fieldsman with Sat. Nav. precision for a valuable 10. Davis Benson was sent out to move the score along and again played with the selflessness of a *Tora Tora* pilot. Unfortunately insufficient damage was rendered prior to his demise.

Garry James was fired up like a Kim Jong Il missile but only got off the launch pad in the second over he faced. A valuable contribution of 11* nevertheless. We finished with a credible 3 for 152 against the tightest bowling line up in the comp.

Stuart Ridge opened the bowling from the organic café end, whilst Mick Knox came in from the non-organic café end. Stuart was on song. Sharp and moving off the pitch. In his first over the ball just shaved the woodwork twice with masterful deliveries. So close that keeper Glenn Mortell had relaxed thinking both deliveries would require a replanting of the stumps. Mick Knox from the other end was moving it effortless both ways but was unable to manufacture a well-deserved edge. There were more dabs than a Monet painting outside the off stump, but no touch of the timber.

In Stuart's second over he was justly rewarded with a close to unplayable ball smashing in to the middle and leg stumps removing the Georges River number 3. This was followed up with an excellent slower ball that trapped the number 4 bat lbw. Knoxy wanted part of the action and broke through with a fine delivery catching the batsman as plumb as it gets. The opening bowlers had done more than their job.

Dave Benson came on and got a wicket almost straight away maintaining the momentum. Another pad assisted wicket. Paul Georgiadis took over from Dave Benson and weaved his wizardry immediately dropping the ball on the spot. The batsmen found it hard to score.

At the other end Garry James after two Easter eggs settled in, the batsman closely analysing every subtle revolution. *Raga* chimed in with an LBW in spite of Shakespearean protestations of ligious involvement by the batsman.

The pressure was right on the Georges River batsman but they kept producing capable batsman in the lower order. They got away with some strong hitting to the short boundary and it was game on at 8 wickets down. C.C.N.S.W. desperately needed the two wickets. A skied chance went begging as the nerves frayed. A couple of lofty hits brought the Georges River team within 3 runs of victory.

Stuart Ridge came back for the penultimate over and extracted a faint edge from the left hand batsman who had accumulated around 26 runs. The catch was superbly taken low down in his left hand by keeper Glen Mortell. The enthusiasm and fervour of the appeal from those close and behind the bat was contrasted with the muted response of those 22 metres down the other end no doubt aurally compromised with the blustery breeze whistling in their ears.

Thoughts of hearing aids and Cochlear implants for the umpire circled in the minds of the fieldsmen behind the stumps...but to no avail, there was no walking and no raising of the umpires digit. Tension filled the air as impolite suggestions were filed for another day. Had the umpire's finger being raised the remaining balls would have had the "*what might happen next*" intrigue of Stormy Daniels attending a golf tournament.

Alas it was not to be and the next ball was clipped off the legs to attain the required runs for Georges River. In a cruel twist that '*caught behind*' decision cost Stuart Ridge the most wickets in the competition mantle.

On balance it was an excellent effort by the C.C.N.S.W. side against a strong outfit. The third "*shoul*da" game of the season. Hopefully those close losses will be reversed next season.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 11, Craig Somers 32*, Peter Rolls 13, Mick McCormick (c) 35*, Glenn Mortell (w) 30*, Wasanta Hettiarachchi 10*, David Benson 2, Garry James 11*, Garry Winney dnb, Stuart Ridge dnb, Paul Georgiadis dnb and Michael Knox dnb

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-151 (40 overs)

Lost to

Georges River C.C.: - 8-154 (38.2 overs)

By 2 wickets,

The Bowling was:- S. Ridge 8-3-12-2, M. Knox 9-2-31-2, P. Georgiadis 5-1-14-1, G. James 9-2-39-0, D. Benson 4-1-20-1, S. Ragavan 3-0-30-1

FOW: - 1-33 (S. Ragavan); 2-54 (P. Rolls); 3-136 (D. Benson).

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to G. Mortell (w)

Run outs: - One to P. Rolls

Player Points: - 3 to C. Somers; 2 to M. McCormick; one to G. Mortell