

MATCH REPORTS C&S

SEASON 2016-2017

C&S ROUND 1 v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER, 2016: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

First game of the year for our City and Suburban side at the traditional start of season venue, Goddard Park. Ian Allmey lost the toss and we bowled first.

We opened with Edward Robertson and Peter Crooks. Peter was back from near a year off cricket so it was good to see him back in action. He soon struck with the help from a cracking catch from Luke Duggan at square leg.

Things were well under control until the Yaralla fourth wicket partnership put on nearly 100. This was ended by an absolute screamer of a catch by Euan Robertson diving low and to his right. The batsman struggled to digest that he had just been dismissed. No one took more than one wicket except for Ed Robertson who bowled well and on occasions with a bit of venom.

189 is never easy to chase but this side was definitely a batting one. Curtis Murray and Tom Robertson opened. Great to see Curtis back. Anyone who likes a bit of rock music, check out his band "*Halfway Homebuoy*"

Curtis's return was short-lived, with a golden quacker. Laurence Mead then joined Tom and looked right at home. Tom departed after hack-sawing a quick 30. It was then the Laurence and Alton show began. They put on 103 together with Laurence (74) playing strokes to all parts. Alton van Straalen (34) played a good supporting role and hit some great leg side shots. When Alton was dismissed the game was pretty much in the bag. Some nice stroke play from Ed Robertson (23*), accompanied by Euan Robertson (6*), ensured us the victory.

Great start to the year lads.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 30, Curtis Murray (w) 0; Laurence Mead 74; Alton Van Straalen 34; Euan Robertson 6*; Edward Robertson 23*; Luke Duggan dnb; Ian Allmey (c) dnb; David Byrnes dnb; Greg Brooks dnb and Peter Crooks dnb

The Result was: -

Yaralla C.C.: - 6-188 (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-192 (28 overs)

By 6 wickets

F.o.W.: - 1-1 (C. Murray) 2-49 (T. Robertson) 3-152 (A. van Straalen) 4-156 (L. Mead)

The Bowling was: - Ed Robertson 9-1-46-3; P. Crooks 5-0-21-1; G. Brooks 9-1-50-0; D. Byrnes 7-0-35-0 and L. Duggan 5-0-35-1

The Fielding was: - One catch to each of L. Duggan, L. Mead, C. Murray (w), and Euan Robertson

John Russell Player Points: - 3 points - L. Mead; 2 points – Euan Robertson; 1 point - A. Van Straalen.

CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE ROUND 1 v ST GEORGE VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2016: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

First C&S game back at Camperdown for the year and we were allotted the strip closest to park side (Broccoli side to those who love their vegies). It looked like the same pitch used against the Back Stage XI and it behaved in a very similar way.

We lost the toss (two in a row) and had a bowl. We opened with Soren Hughes and Paul Nash (who hasn't bowled for at least 12 months). Nash broke through twice early and we had the St George Veterans in strife. Soren bowled at good length at kept the scoring to a trickle.

Wickets then came to a halt but the run rate was not getting out of hand on what is a super-fast outfield and very short broccoli side boundary. A few part timers came on and were dealt with deservedly. Greg Brooks steadied the ship as usual and took the wicket of their No.3 who was on 70. Wickets kept falling and the run rate was kept to something that we (I) thought we could run down. Special mention to Alton van Straalen who ran a near marathon in the field. He was a true ball magnet.

After an afternoon tea worthy of mention we then went about the chase. Ian Allmey decided we should start with raw aggression with himself and Tom Robertson. Ian went the short side early and hit a nice 6 before playing across the line and was caught.

It was then the "Laurence (Mead) and Tom" show for the next 126 runs. Mead pounced on anything short and played straight when required. The other bloke did the opposite but to his credit his shots off his pads were on-song.

'Loza' copped a full toss and was caught in the deep. The ball however was of questionable height and as any minority would do, played the short man card and claimed it was above the waist. Umpires did not agree.

At this stage we were humming at near 9 an over and we were counting chickens. To throw the fox amongst those said chickens, Ian advised us we needed to pass the total within 21 overs to get bonus points. Added pressure put the brakes right on and we ended needing 20 off the twenty first over. Tom thought he'd give it a red hot go and only fell 2 short but on the flip side had the bonus of bringing up the personal milestone of 100. A day where the low slow wicket suited the most disliked minority of all, the left handed Ranga.

Very satisfying start to the Jack Pace Competition. Sorry to all those batsman who waited patiently on the sideline not to get a go.

The Team was: - Ian Allmey (c) 15; Tom Robertson 105*; Laurence Mead 33; Paul Nash 17*; Scott Wells d.n.b.; Euan Robertson d.n.b.; Alton Van Straalen d.n.b.; David Byrnes d.n.b.; Curtis Murray (w) d.n.b.; Soren Hughes d.n.b. and Greg Brooks d.n.b.

The Result was:-

St George Veterans: - 7-187 (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-188 (T. Robertson 105*; L. Mead 33) (21.1 overs)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1-19 (I. Allmey) 2-140 (L. Mead)

The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 7-2-33-1; P. Nash 8-0-31-2; L. Mead 3-0-21-0; D. Byrnes 7-0-30-1; G. Brooks 7-0-25-3; T. Robertson 4-0-33-0; and S. Wells 1-0-10-0

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to I. Allmey

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – T. Robertson; 2 points – G. Brooks; 1 point – L, Mead.

CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 2 v OLD CRANBROOKIANS AT DANGAR OVAL, ROSE BAY ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER , 2016: REPORT BY ED SMITH

A new-look C.C.N.S.W. C&S team were greeted by a very strong southerly breeze and a hard green deck at Dangar Oval last Sunday. We had not beaten Old Cranbrookians in our last two attempts at this ground so we were keen to reverse the trend.

Winning the toss, Captain Ed Smith chose to bat and, in the absence of Ian Allmey, opened up with keeper/batsman Curtis Murray and new boy Richard Clark. The openers put on a slow but steady start with Rich only scoring 2 runs off his first 16 balls. With their eyes now in, the pair exploded from the tenth over putting on an opening partnership of 46 off 12 overs until Curtis walked on 33 (42 balls) when he nicked behind. By now, Allmey had arrived from his domestic driving duties and was ready, for the first time in my memory, to bat at first drop. With Rich finding ‘rich’ form, and Allmey finding the boundary off four consecutive deliveries, C.C.N.S.W. took 23 runs off the thirteenth over which swung the game firmly in our favour.

Shortly after, Allmey top-edged and was caught out for 19 runs off just 9 balls which only served to bring Scott Wells to the crease for more damage. Wells batted beautifully, cutting hard like a fully grown man and, together with Rich, the pair put on a 99 run partnership in just 8 overs including a devastating 25 run over in which Rich hit four sixes in five balls!

Wells was eventually bowled for 56 off just 45 balls with our score on 3 for 170 off 25 overs and Rich was caught at deep mid-wicket for a well-constructed and paced 76 runs off 66 balls. Tom Robertson (21* ret off 14 balls) steered our score past 200 and then retired, leaving Alton Van Straalen (11* off 16) and Ed Smith (6* off 8) to bring the good ship C.C.N.S.W. into to port on 4 for 232 off our allotted 35 overs.

With our normal opener, Ed Smith, still carrying an Achilles injury from last season’s grand final, we tried a new opening bowling pair of Edward Robertson and Mitch Sturt. Both bowled tightly with Ed Robertson striking first having their big hitting opener caught by Ed Smith at mid-off – causing Tommy to profess that “Two ‘Eds are better than One”. Mitch then bowled the other opener in the fourth over to have them at 2 for 21.

Mitch’s next over claimed their second drop bat – 3 for 31 – while President Brooks (2 for 28 off 7) came on with a wicket maiden in our tenth over to have the Old Cranbrookians reeling at 4 for 34 after 10 overs. With tight line and length, Brooks then struck again to have Old Cranbrookians 5 for 46 off 15.

Luke Duggan (2 for 32 off 5) replaced Ed Robertson and took a brilliant caught and bowled, low to his right, in our sixteenth over – 6 for 49 – and all hope looked dashed for the Old Cranbrookians. To their

credit, they fought back posting a 37 run partnership between their keeper batsman, Pemberton, and all-rounder, Marshall which Luke managed to break, bowling Marshall with a Yorker – 7 for 86 off 21.

Pemberton was not to be stopped however as he went on a hitting rampage that netted him 74 good runs while his partner at the other end, Smith, brought up 40 of his own. C.C.N.S.W. (Mitch Sturt 3 for 25 off 6) eventually dismissed Pemberton in the twenty eighth over to have them at 8 for 142 – and with that the game was safe for C.C.N.S.W. Ed Smith (2 for 28 off 6) and Ed Robertson (1 for 36 off 9) then finished off the innings, dismissing the Old Cranbrookians last batsman with two balls to spare in the innings with their team score on 185.

It was a really good all-round team effort with every player contributing with either the bat or the ball against a team who is very hard to beat at home. In reality, it was our two big overs of 23 runs and 25 runs that stole the game which resulted in our 48 run victory. Well done to the Club!

The Team was: - Curtis Murray (w) 33 (42 balls); Richard Clark 76 (66 balls), Ian Allmey (c) 19 (8 balls), Scott Wells 56 (45 balls), Tom Robertson 21* (ret) (14 balls), Alton van Straalen 11* (16 balls), Ed Smith 6* (8 balls), Edward Robertson d.n.b., Mitch Sturt d.n.b., Luke Duggan d.n.b. and Greg Brooks d.n.b.

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-232 (35 overs)

Defeated

Old Cranbrookians: - 10-185 (34.4 overs)

By 47 runs

FoW: - 1- 46 (C. Murray) 2-71 (I. Allmey) 3-170 (R. Clark) 4-214 (S. Wells)

The Bowling was: - Edward Robertson 9-2-36-1; M. Sturt 6-0-25-3; G. Brooks 7-0-28-2; L. Duggan 5-0-32-2; S. Wells 2-0-29-0 and E. Smith 6-0-28-2

The Fielding was: - 2 catches to L. Duggan. 1 catch to each of C. Murray (w); Edward Robertson, T. Robertson, E. Smith and M. Sturt

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – R. Clark; 2 points – S. Wells ; 1 point - M. Sturt .

CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE ROUND 2 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER, 2016: REPORT BY ED SMITH

Round Two of the Jack Pace Shield was upon us and, for the first time this season, Ian Allmey and Tom Robertson were left with difficult selection decisions. Having played a tough JPS semi-final last season against the Nondescripts C.C., we knew we were in for a tough battle but we had no idea just how close it was going to be.

The covers had done the job over night (thanks to the usual suspects (*Editor's Note: - Ed Smith and Matt Rennick*)), saving the game from a wash out and we were greeted with a slightly sticky wicket. Winning the toss, and with an eye on a potential bonus point (which is easier to get batting second), Captain Smith sent the opposition in.

Peter Crooks (1 for 33 off 5 overs) and Joe Scarcella (0 for 2 off 0.5 overs) opened together until Joe had his middle finger 're-arranged' by a well hit return catch in only our second over. Manager Greg Brooks promptly drove Joe to hospital where he spent the rest of the afternoon having his dislocated finger re-located and stitched. A quick phone call to substitute Alton Van Straalen and, within 2 overs, we had an eleventh fieldsman back on the field – although we would be down a batsman and a bowler for the day. A brilliant effort by Alton to change his afternoon plans for the Club.

Peter Crooks took the first wicket (caught behind by keeper Curtis Murray) in the third over to have the Nondescripts 1 for 12 while Paul Nash (0 for 37 off 7) took over from Joe at the other end. The Nondos then put on a 52 run partnership which was only broken by Davis Byrnes' third ball of the day – plumb l.b.w. 2 for 65 became 3 for 99 when another bowling change reaped instant rewards, Ed Smith having their danger man and first drop bat (Mr. Short) caught by Matt Abeysekera at point for 44.

A good run out to sub-fielder, Alton V.S., had their third drop out for a duck but Nondescripts, on 4 for 100 off 19 overs, were now targeting a score of over 200. Some tight bowling from Byrnes (1 for 29 off 7) and Smith (1 for 26 off 7) slowed the run rate. Laurence Mead replaced Byrnes at the 'off-spinners' end and took the prized wicket of Nondescripts' captain, Viv Samdarshi, bowled for a well-compiled 42 with a ball that shot through.

Matt Rennick (1 for 9 off 2.1) and Laurence Mead (4 for 23 off 6) then took care of the tail with Matt taking an Aussie Rules type running catch above his head in the outfield off Lozza's bowling and Peter Crooks taking a well judged catch running in from deep fine leg off Rennick's full toss. By the end of their 35 overs, Nondescripts had been contained to 9 for 166 having at one stage looked like scoring over 200.

An afternoon tea of carrots, cheese sandwiches and cheezels was the perfect nutritional base for a tight run chase and Curtis Murray and Tom Robertson posted 16 runs off our first two overs as we tried to chase the total down within the first 21 overs in order to get the bonus point. Some very good bowling from their opener, Colebatch, turned our innings on its head.

Colebatch first bowled Curtis for 3 runs (3 balls) and then Tommy for 10 runs (11 balls). Laurence Mead and Dave Byrnes then settled the ship and looked in control with Byrnes's first five scoring shots being boundaries. Colebatch, however, had other thoughts and he struck again bowling Laurence when he was on 8 (13 balls).

3 for 40 off 7 overs became 4 for 52 off 10 overs when Byrnes was well caught at mid-on for 27 off just 24 balls. A quiet descended on the C.C.N.S.W. change room as we realised that our chances of a win had significantly dropped. Paul Nash and Euan Robertson then batted nicely together for the next 5 overs until Nash nicked one to the keeper with his score on 9 (15 balls) and then, in the twentieth over, Euan was bowled for 14 (30 balls) to leave us precariously placed at 6 for 87 off 17 overs.

Matt Abeysekera, the hero of last season's semi-final against the Nondescripts, then strode to the wicket and stroked his first ball brilliantly through cover for 4. In his last C&S game before he returns to Sri Lanka to start a family, Matt looked very good until he nicked a drive through to the keeper leaving C.C.N.S.W. in dire straits at 7 for 91 off 21 overs – meaning we needed another 77 runs off 15 overs with only two wickets left (Joe Scarcella being unable to bat due to injury).

Captain Smith (your author) then strode to the crease and confidently addressed his batting partner, Matt Rennick, with "*we've got this; piece of cake*". Matt and Ed then put on a watchful 13 run partnership off 18 balls until Matt suffered from a rush of blood and spooned a slog down mid-on's throat.

This brought our last batsman, Peter Crooks, to the crease with the almost impossible equation of 63 runs needed to win off 74 balls with only one wicket left (*J. Scarcella unable to bat*) on a wicket that was still

popping in places. Note that I write “almost impossible” because, with two John McDonald medallists at the crease, anything is possible.

Crooks started off very cautiously and, given his unorthodox style, the Nondescripts thought that his demise was only a matter of one or two deliveries away. With instructions from his Captain ringing in his ears, Crooks played a straight and dead bat to anything on the wickets and took singles from anything wide. The pair set themselves a target of getting through to the end of the thirtieth over without losing their wickets. If they could do this, then (the theory was) they would have their eye in and be ready for the required acceleration.

After a couple of overs, Nondescripts were letting Ed score easy singles into the outfield and trying to attack Crooks's stumps - but he was up to the task. With ten overs to go, the pair needed a run-a-ball to win. With eight overs to go we needed 49 runs – but we still had a chance. The Nondescripts' skipper wisely brought back on his opening bowler, Colebatch, to finish off the game but our gutsy duo dropped anchor and saw off his speed and searing yorkers to get themselves through to their first target – the end of the thirtieth over – with our score on 8 for 126.

41 runs needed off 36 balls was the equation when Crooks skied a catch to mid-off – fortunately, however, their fieldsman dropped the sitter and we scampered through for two runs. At 8 for 130 after 31 overs, needing another 37 runs off 24 balls and with luck running our way – the two JM Medallists seized the moment. Ed started the attack crashing a towering six over mid-wicket then Crooks joined in with a big ‘*Dorothy Dixer*’ of his own.

22 runs off 18 balls was reduced to 16 runs off 12 balls as Ed struck a four over extra cover off the last ball of the thirty third over. The quick Colebatch was reintroduced in the second last over but this did not phase Crooks as he smote firstly a four and then a huge six over mid-on, leaving us needing just 3 runs off 7 balls. The last ball of Colebatch's over was a chest high full toss which Crooks cleverly turned to the backward square leg boundary for a 4 and the game was won with one over to spare!

An incredible come back featuring a 65 run last wicket stand off just 68 balls between Peter Crooks 39* (30 balls) and Captain Smith 32* (47 balls)) had secured us the JPS points for round 2 and one of our most memorable C&S come-from-behind wins in history.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 10 (11 balls), Curtis Murray 3 (w) (3 balls), Laurence Mead 8 (13 balls), David Byrnes 27 (24 balls), Paul Nash 9 (15 balls), Euan Robertson 14 (30 balls), M. Abeysekera 9 (10 balls), Matt Rennick 4 (18 balls), E. Smith (c.) 32* (47 balls), Peter Crooks (39* (30 balls), Joe Scarcella d.n.b. – injured (Substitute fielder Alton Van Straalen)

The Result was: -

Nondescripts C.C.: - 9 for 166 (L. Mead 4-23) (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8 for 169 (P. Crooks 39*; E. Smith 32*) (33.5 overs)

By 2 wickets.

FoW: - 16 (C Murray) 17 (T Robertson) 40 (L Mead) 52 (D Byrnes) 80 (P Nash) 87 (E Robertson) 91 (M Abeysekera) 104 (M Rennick)

The Bowling was: - P. Crooks 5-1-33-1, J. Scarcella 0.5-0-2-0, M. Rennick 2.1-0-9-1, P. Nash 7-1-37-0, D. Byrnes 7-0-29-1, E. Smith 7-0-26-1, and L. Mead 6 -1- 23-4

The Fielding was: -Catches: One catch to each of C. Murray (w) and M. Abeysekera, P. Crooks, L. Mead, M. Rennick and Euan Robertson.

Run-outs: - One run out to substitute fielder (Alton Van Straalen)

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – E. Smith; 2 points – P. Crooks ; 1 point – I. Mead

JACK PACE ROUND 3 v RANGERS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER, 2016 REPORT BY GREG BROOKS

C.C.N.S.W. were sent in to bat on a dry and flat wicket that had seen at least 360 overs in the past 7 days! Nonetheless it played okay which allowed us to accumulate a total of 199 all out.

Unfortunately we are losing wickets regularly and need to reset our goals to build big partnerships by occupying the crease as the runs will come if we do.

Ian Allmey (46 off 29 balls) got us off to a flyer and despite losing wickets regularly we scored at 6 an over. Soren Hughes 38 and Greg Brooks 23 put together an eight wicket partnership of 51 and we closed all out for 199 from 32.4 overs.

After tea Rangers begun the chase and were soon in trouble. Joe Scarcella (2-9) made the early breakthrough and was well supported by Shane Peterson and Soren(2-21).With the introduction of Angus Cusack who generated serious pace the task looked beyond them. Bowling straight and quickly Angus took 3-10 from 6 overs allowing Dave Byrnes (1-20) and Greg Brooks (2-9) to clean up the tail, all out 91 in 24 overs.

While all wins are crucial in the Jack Pace Shield qualifying rounds and we picked up a bonus point, our batting needs to improve if we are to progress further in the knockout stages.

The Team was: - Richard Clark 8, Ian Allmey (c) 46, Curtis Murray (w) 8; Paul Nash 8, David Byrnes 19, Angus Cusack 15, Ed Smith 4, Soren Hughes 38, Greg Brooks 23. Shane Peterson 9 and Joe Scarcella 1*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-199 (R. Clark 46; S. Hughes 38) (32 overs)

Defeated

Rangers C.C.: - 10-91 (A. Cusack 3-10) (24 overs)

By 108 runs

FOW: - 1- 35 (R. Clark) 2-62 (I. Allmey) 3-66 (C. Murray) 4-92 (P. Nash) 5-111 (D. Byrnes) 6-116 (E. Smith) 7-128 (A. Cusack) 8-179 (G. Brooks) 9-187 (S. Hughes) 10-199 (S. Peterson)

The Bowling was: - J. Scarcella 4-1-9-2; S. Peterson 3-0-17-0; A. Cusack 6-2-10-3; S. Hughes 6-0-21-2; D. Byrnes 3-0-20-1; G. Brooks 2-0-9-2

The Fielding was: - Catches: One catch to C. Murray (w) and one catch to R. Clark

John Russell Player Points: - 3 points - S. Hughes; 2 points – A. Cusack; 1 point – I. Allmey

**CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 4 v COLLEAGUES C.C. AT
CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 19
NOVEMBER, 2016**

Forfeit by Colleagues on the Saturday morning

**JACK PACE ROUND 4 v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD
ON SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 2016: REPORT BY TOM
ROBERTSON**

Another game at Goddard Oval and another golden for Ian Allmey. First ball of the game!

At 5 – 32 we were in a real pickle. Enter knights in shining armour, Leroy Maurer (15 years old) with 46 and Ed Smith with 46* in a cracking well timed partnership of 75. We finished strongly with what we thought was still a below par 8-147.

We started with Yaralla on the attack and things seemed dire. Luke Duggan (4-37) came on first change and couldn't find his line until he decided to let nature do its work; he lofted up some gentle away swingers which no-one could resist. Caught Alton van Straalen at second slip. bowled Luke 2 balls in a row. Things were looking up!

Ian (Robertson) bowled straight and kept the scoring rate well down. It was now time for batting hero Ed Smith to continue his most remarkable season. Seems blowing his Achilles is the best move he's done in 20 years. Ed (3-27) came on and removed tail-enders and most importantly their No.1 bat which took the game away from them.

Great bowling display and sensational win!

The Team was: - Ian Allmey (c) 0; Tom Robertson 6, Curtis Murray 17, Paul Nash 4, Leroy Maurer 46, Alton Von Straalen 0, Ed Smith 46*, Luke Duggan 10, Matt Gale (w) 8, Ian Robertson 0* and Shane Peterson dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-147 (E. Smith 46*; L. Maurer 46) (35 overs)

Defeated

Yaralla C.C.: - 10-130 (L. Duggan 4- 37) (32 overs)

By 17 runs.

FoW: - 1- 0 (I. Allmey) 2-17 (T. Robertson) 3-28 (C. Murray) 4-32 (P. Nash) 5-32 (A. van Straalen) 6-107 (L. Maurer) 7-124 (L. Duggan) 8-143 (M Gale)

The Bowling was: - S. Peterson 4-0-21-1; P. Nash 5-0-17-0, L. Duggan 6-0-37-4; I. Robertson 6-2-14-1; E. Smith 7-1-27-3; and T. Robertson 4-1-10-1

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: two to A. Van Straalen; one catch to each of L. Duggan, C. Murray and T. Robertson

Run-outs: - Nil

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – E. Smith; 2 points –L. Maurer; 1 point – L. Duggan

C&S ROUND 5 v REG BARTLEY XI AT ST ANDREWS OVAL, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2016

Forfeited by Reg Bartley XI

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 5 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER, 2016: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

After a bit of rain Camperdown was looking high grade standard. The pitch too was something that Camperdown is renowned for. Ed Smith won the toss and we decided to bat. We opened with the Robertsons (Tom and Euan) to cause confusion amongst Sydney University Veterans and the scorers. Only their mothers can tell them apart.

Paul Moorhouse opened the bowling and bowled with loop and guile. Tom hit a few and then departed. Paul Nash joined Euan and hit some classic cover drives. Euan was about to explode until he was caught and bowled by Paul. Moorhouse.

Damien Langley headed to the middle and started in his usual cautious way (maybe this is how a batsman should approach an innings?). Nasho was fired lbw and that bought the ‘big ogre’ into bat, David Byrnes, who looked in control and started with his tried and true cut to the short broccoli side.

It was then the ‘Damo and Byrnes’ show until Byrnes was adjudged lbw playing back. The crease then welcomed Sam Millar after quite a hiatus from the Blues. Sam started with a four and was quickly right at home. Damien and Sam accelerated and a big total looked ominous. Sam was retired by Ed at 51* to give the lower order a go with Damo flagged as a chance of a hundred. Sadly as soon as this was decided, Damo departed for 80. A late flurry by Craig Kitson (32*) saw us post a super fat total of 8-288. That’s 2 multiples of 2 fat ladies. Fat!!

An average afternoon tea was consumed, most providing sweet buns of some kind. Savoury!! We need more savoury!!

It was now our turn to bowl with Soren Hughes opening and Matt Gale umpiring for the other team. Both were soon in the action with Gale firing their opener lbw in the first over. Man of the match stuff Galsey!!

Damien Langley was to open at the other end but after a few balls had strained his side. All that stretching and preparation doesn’t pay. Sam Millar took over from Damo but it was Soren who was doing the damage. A nice caught behind had Sydney University Veterans right behind the eight-ball. Sam started with some mixed fruit but was rewarded with a wicket after Euan Robertson took the catch of the season, beating his catch at Yaralla. If you were to follow C.C.N.S.W. on twitter a fair comparison was tweeted by the ogre Dave Byrnes.

We then bought spin on and a great line and length was bowled. It was very hard to get anything past the ring and wickets fell steadily. Kitson was the standout with 4 wickets and barely a bad ball. When victory was nigh the Robertsons were bought on which kept the game going a bit. It was left to Craig Kitson and David Byrnes to finish it off.

Fantastic end to 2016 which left us undefeated. Let’s take that into 2017!

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 25, Euan Robertson 9, Paul Nash 24, Damien Langley 80, David Byrnes 55, Sam Millar 51* ret, Alton Van Straalen 1, Craig Kitson 32*, Matt Rennick (w) 3, Soren Hughes 0 and Ed Smith (c) 0*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-288 (D. Langley 80; D. Byrnes 55; S. Millar 51* ret,) (35 overs)

Defeated

Sydney University Veterans: - 10-119 (31.1 overs)

By 169 runs.

FoW: - 1- 29 (T. Robertson) 2-51 (E. Robertson) 3-61 (P. Nash) 4-150 (D. Byrnes) 5-248 (D Langley) 5-248 (S Miller 51*ret) 6-250 (A van Straalen) 7-276 (S Hughes) 8-276 (M Rennick)

The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 7-1-35-3; D. Langley 1-0-4-0; S. Millar 5-3-16-1; C. Kitson 6.1-0-22-4; D. Byrnes 6-0-11-2; T. Robertson 4-0-16-0; E. Robertson 1-0-6-0 and P. Nash 2-1-4-0

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: one to each of P. Nash, M Rennick (w), E. Robertson and A.van Straalen

Run-outs: - Nil

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – D. Langley; 2 points – C. Kitson; 1 point – D. Byrnes

C&S ROUND 7 v BARKER OLD BOYS AT ROSEWOOD OVAL, HORNSBY ON SATURDAY 7 JANUARY, 2016.

Rained off

C&S ROUND 9 v BEAVERS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 21 JANUARY, 2017: REPORT BY EUAN ROBERTSON

A stonking win for the C&S side against Beavers, with some excellent performances from Cricketers Club icons Allmey, Nash and Byrnes #.

Ian Allmey won the toss and opened the batting with Tom Robertson. Tom was out of the traps quickly, slashing fours and racing to 33. Allmey, by his own lofty standards, was looking scratchier than a woollen jock strap. When Tommy smashed a half tracker to be caught at deep mid wicket, he had more than twice Allmey's score at the time. Inevitably, Ian began to time the ball, smashing 3 sixes and hitting fours regularly. Paul Nash got off the mark with a six and cruised through the gears.

At drinks the hundred partnership was completed, with Allmey on 68. He didn't hang around, bringing up his 100 in the 22nd over and generously retiring, not out, to allow others to join the carnage.

Nash brought up his second fifty in a row before being bowled for 55. Byrnes missed a straight one and was bowled for a single. Euan Robertson and Damien Langley swung at everything and put on 61 in 8 overs. Both fell slogging - Euan for 25 and Damien for 36. At the end of 35 overs we were 6 for 285 and effectively out of sight.

Joe Scarcella and Peter Crooks took the new ball and each took a wicket. One opener was caught by Nash under a high one at point. Crooks took a wicket thanks to Langley's safe hands.

Allmey shuffled his pack to bring on Langley and Byrnes. Damien was very unlucky, beating the bat regularly and when he found the edge, our slip cordon was less than accommodating. He deserved better than his final figures of 1 for 16. Byrnes was a star, finding a teasing length and taking 5 for 10. There were catches, and lbws, but the highlight was lightening quick glove work from Matt Gale for a good stumping. Allmey had the luxury of bringing on Euan Robertson (1 for 16) and Tom Robertson (1 for 4) to clean up the tail.

We won by 184 runs, setting us up positively for three games in New Zealand, a game in Sydney against I Zingari (Australia) and the big Jack Pace quarter final in two weeks v Nondescripts.

I can't decide if that is a country music trio or the worst law firm in Sydney

The Team was:- Ian Allmey 103* retired not out (c), Tom Robertson 33, Paul Nash 55, David Byrnes 1, Euan Robertson 25, Damien Langley 36, Greg Brooks 5*, Alton Van Straalen 0*, Matt Gale (w) dnb, Joe Scarcella dnb and Peter Crooks dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W: 5 - 285 (I. Allmey 103* retired not out; P. Nash 55) (35 overs)

Defeated

Beavers: - 10 - 101 (D. Byrnes 5-19) (26.2 overs)

By 184 runs

FoW: - 1-59 (T. Robertson), 1-194 (I. Allmey 103* retired not out), 2-212 (P. Nash), 3-220 (D. Byrnes), 4-281 (Euan Robertson), 5-281 (D. Langley)

The Bowling was: - J. Scarcella 6-1-25-1; P. Crooks 5-1-22-1; D. Langley 6-0-16-1; D. Byrnes 5-1-10-5; E. Robertson 2-1-16-1; T. Robertson 1.2-0-4-1; P. Nash 1-0-3-0

The Fielding was: - One stumping M. Gale

One catch to each of P. Nash, P. Crooks, D. Langley, T. Robertson.

“John Russell” player points: - 3 points – I. Allmey; 2 points – D. Byrnes ; 1 point – P. Nash

C&S ROUND 10 v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 28 JANUARY, 2017: REPORT BY JOE SCARCELLA

(Editor’s Note: About 5 of our regular C&S player were in New Zealand on the very enjoyable and successful tour to Nelson but this was balanced by the fact that I Zingari (Australia) were at the same time on a tour to Christchurch with a party of 38 including 16 players, many in their regular C&S side)

Captain Ian Allmey won the toss and elected to bat.

On an outfield that was much slower than usual, C.C.N.S.W. began steadily enough against a bowling attack of good quality. With Craig Kitson playing the anchor role, Ian Allmey made a quick-fire score of 21 before being dismissed. From there the wickets fell at regular intervals. Most of the batsmen managed to get a start but couldn’t capitalise to go on and make big scores. Paul Nash was top scorer with 26 runs.

At 8-104 and with the team looking at a total barely over 100, Luke Witherden joined the other Luke (Duggan) at the crease. Duggan was dismissed after a 10-run partnership, bringing No. 11 Joe Scarcella to the crease. Witherden was batting confidently and aggressively and Scarcella was steady and resolute in a supporting role. Together for the last wicket they put on an equal top score partnership of 31 runs, adding some respectability to the final score.

The C.C.N.S.W. innings of 145 was probably not good enough, it seemed, but at least we thought it gave the bowlers a reasonable total to defend in the conditions. Opening bowlers Witherden and Scarcella started well, bowling good lines and keeping it tight. Scarcella struck first, clean bowling one of the openers. Witherden also took an important wicket early on, giving C.C.N.S.W. some hope. Luke Duggan and Favid Byrnes came on as change bowlers, maintaining the pressure on the batsmen with good consistent bowling. Byrnes finished with 2 wickets from his 10 excellent overs.

However, the I Zingari (Australia) captain and No. 3, Geoff Lovell, an accomplished former first grader and a very experienced batsman, (*Ed Note; Now aged over 50 and eligible for Classics; former Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year, Oxford Blue with first class batting average of 32; and former Board member of C.C.N.S.W.*) kept the bowlers at bay and batted beautifully, making 72 runs. During this period only 31 runs were added at the other end. Undoubtedly, he was the difference between the sides. When he was finally dismissed, the third wicket to fall at 3-112, IZAs were closing in on reaching the target with plenty of wickets in the shed. This allowed the incoming batsman to take risks and bat with great aggression. They finally reached the target with 2 overs to spare.

The Team was:- Ian Allmey (c) 21 , Craig Kitson 10, Paul Nash 26, Regan Smith 2, David Byrnes 12, Alton Van Straalen 1, Matt Rennick 3 , Luke Duggan 15, Matt Gale (w) 8, Luke Witherden 14* and Joe Scarcella 8

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W: 10 -145 (34.1 overs)

Lost to

I Zingari (Australia): - 4- 146 (33) (overs)

By 6 wickets

FoW: - 1-31 (I. Allmey); 2-40 (C. Kitson); 3-51 (R. Smith); 4-82 (P. Nash); 5-82 (D. Byrnes); 6-89 (M. Rennick); 7-89 (A. Van Straalen); 8-104 (M. Gale); 9- 114 (L. Duggan); 10-145 (J. Scarcella)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 6-1-21-1; J. Scarcella 5-0-24-1; L. Duggan 5-0-22-0; D. Byrnes 10-0-37-2; C. Kitson 4-0-29-0; P, Nash 2-0-10-0

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to M. Gale (w); one to Matt Rennick

Run outs: Nil

“John Russell” player points: - 3 points – D. Byrnes; 2 points – P. Nash ; 1 point – L. Witherden

C&S JACK PACE QUARTER FINAL v NONDESCRIPTS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2017: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

A real stinker (c 38⁰) greeted us for our Jack Pace Quarter Final. Our last encounter against Nondescripts took a freakish 9th wicket partnership between Ed and Pete Crooks to save us. Hopefully this time round would not require such theatre.

Ed lost the toss and Nondos batted. Damien Langley and Soren Hughes started up, Damien with his relentless line and Soren with his swing and wobble. It was a steady start by both teams with our intensity not quite up to finals standard. Euan Robertson kept his catching standard going with an unbroken 17 catches in all forms of cricket he has played (except for when he kept 1 time but that's not counted!) to dismiss their opener at gully. David Byrnes bowled beautifully without luck. One lbw appeal does come to mind which may have changed the outcome of the game.

Numbers 3 to 5 looked good and put on 40 odd each until falling when preparing to launch. Soren finished fantastically with a flurry of 4 wickets which gave him 5-32 for the game. Soren's death bowling is quite outstanding.

Apart from that it was a non-eventful 35 overs. C.C.N.S.W. really didn't apply finals pressure to Nondos and we had our work cut out to chase a very competitive 8-187.

A very average afternoon tea followed with only one player providing savoury and the rest of the players only shop bought rubbish (*Ed note: censored! Tom used a more pithy expletive*). Sorry had to get that off my chest.

We opened with two Robertsons, Tom and Euan and after 3 balls there was one. If we really put thought into this game we would have made an effort to see off the openers and smash the very average other bowlers. A few lbws later and we were in a real pickle. Sam Millar (65) was playing fantastically with his highly illegal bat. With Sam at the crease there was real hope we could chase this down. Ed Smith (36) played another great innings showing his worth even without being able to bowl.

A steady flow of wickets ensured we'd fall short and we did.

The real take away from this game is that we need to want it. There was little pressure applied to other team when they were batting. Batting was poorly thought out (I led the way here). Next year we need to lift that intensity or we won't make the finals.

The Team was:- Tom Robertson 0, Euan Robertson 8, Paul Nash 5, Damien Langley 10, Sam Millar 65, David Byrnes 2, Ed Smith (c) 36, Soren Hughes 17*, Luke Duggan 1, Peter Crooks 11, Matt Rennick (w) 0

The Result was: -

Nondescripts C.C.: - 8-187 (S. Hughes 5-32) (35 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W: 10 - 165 (S. Millar 65) (33 overs)

FoW: - 1- 0 (T. Robertson) 2-9 (P. Nash) 3-22 (D. Langley) 4-39 (Euan Robertson) 5-42 (D. Byrnes) 6-130 (S. Millar) 7-136 (E. Smith) 8-141 (L. Duggan) 9-165 (P. Crooks) 10-166 (M. Rennick)

The Bowling was: - D. Langley 7-2-23-0, S. Hughes 7-0-32-5, D. Byrnes 7-0-14-0, L. Duggan 5-0-29-2, P. Crooks 3-0-16-0, S. Millar 5-0-52-1, P. Nash 2-0-16-0

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: None

Catches: 2 to Tom Robertson; One to each of P. Crooks and Euan Robertson

Run outs: None

"John Russell" Player Points: - 3 points – S, Hughes; 2 points – S. Millar; 1 point – E. Smith

C&S ROUND 11 v OLD CRANBROOKIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, ON SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 2017.

Old Cranbrookians forfeited early in the week claiming they could not raise a side to play us at Camperdown on the Saturday as per agreed fixture list but were willing to play us at their ground on the Sunday. The offer was rejected. Later in the week all Saturday cricket was called off because of heat and the game will be recorded as 'cancelled by heat'.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 13 v SCOTS OLD BOYS AT SCOTS COLLEGE, BELLEVUE HILL ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2017: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES

Despite an apparent forecast of thunderstorms and some pretty serious hailstorms the day prior, the Scots College grounds were lush; the sun was shining and our bowlers began discussing who would benefit most from the gentle breeze which made for some very comfortable conditions.

Bowling first, we contained their openers quite well early, Nick Saady led the charge and contained the openers to just two scoring shots in his first four overs and was unlucky not to pick up a wicket. After we removed the less apt opening batsmen, a left handed batsman, recruited by Scots and who had played a few games for Queensland, walked out with esteem.

Although we fielded well, and especially well when referring to anything fielded by Jonty Hall, the boundary was found numerous times by the former Queenslander. It seemed that whenever we could get him off strike, we would take a wicket. Tom Robertson started the collapse with some nasty short bowling, soon followed by Paul Nash and Leroy Maurer who picked up a wicket each. Not to be outdone, Mick McCormick removed the Queenslander and we looked like picking Scots up cheaply at 5-76 after 20 overs.

Through sustained pressure, we continued to take wickets. Leroy bagged another, Nick Saady returned with a wicket maiden and Ian Allmey palmed one to Ed Smith in slips to railroad Scots to 8-117 after 31 overs. With Tom sinking another one with the last ball of his seven over spell (yes, he bowled seven in a row with nil extras), we were considering whether to give some runs away to make a game of it. Apparently the last three batsmen was listening, and put on 43 from the last four overs and we were chasing 161.

Curtis Murray and Ed Smith opened, Ed got a good one early which he touched and walked off early in the name of good captaincy. Curtis dug in, first finding the boundary after his 29th ball. Paul Nash kept the book ticking over but succumbed to the first ball of the change bowler on 11. Leroy Maurer picked up the run rate with a quick fire 19 but found a fielder and Curtis Murray soon fell for 8. We were 4-52 at drinks with some work to be done.

Jonty Hall hit a couple well before departing for 8. Mick McCormick (22) then rose to the occasion. He let his bat do the talking and made his mark on the Scots College building, almost smashing a window and leaving a nice red cherry on its polished exterior. This inspired Alton Van Straalen to an innings to remember, bludgeoning four sixes and five boundaries in quick time. Alton's repertoire included a six which hit the roof of the four storey library building and rolled onto Cranbrook Road.

With Mick McCormick making a move for the change rooms, Ian Allmey casually plundered 22 and was probably looking for more when he found the cover fieldsman standing 15 metres deeper than usual. Alton edged one on 49 and it was 11 to get from four overs at 8-150. Tom Robertson and Soren Hughes took care of it, leaving Nick Saady without a bat and keen to come back and play a few games for us next season.

Well done gents, another win from an enjoyable day's play. Where was Weaves with the flag?

The Team was:- Curtis Murray (w) 8, Ed Smith (c) 0, Paul Nash 11, Leroy Maurer 19, Mick McCormick 22, Jonty Hall 8, Alton Van Straalen 49, Ian Allmey 22, Tom Robertson 5*, Soren Hughes 5*, Nick Saady (dnb).

The Result was: -

Scots Old Boys: - 9-160 (G. Moncrieff 48*; L. Kahler 45) (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-162 (A. Van Straalen 49; M. McCormick 22, I. Allmey 22) (32.1 overs)

By two wickets

The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 7-0-50-2, N Saady 7-3-12-1, P. Nash 7-0-37-1, T. Robertson 7-0-35-2, L. Maurer 4-2-10-2, M. McCormick 2-1-9-1, E. Smith 1-0-4-0.

FoW: - 1-0 (E. Smith) 2-21 (P. Nash), 3-44 (L. Maurer), 4-51 (C. Murray), 5-65 (J. Hall), 6-112 (M. McCormick), 7-150 (I. Allmeyer), 8-150 (A. Van Straalen)

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: none

Catches: 2 to C. Murray (w), 1 to E. Smith, L. Maurer and M. McCormick

Run outs: None

“John Russell” Player Points: - 3 points – A. Van Straalen; 2 points – M. McCormick ; 1 point – L. Maurer

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 14 v HUNTERS HILL AT BORONIA PARK, HUNTERS HILL ON SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2017

Cancelled due to rain. It appears Hunters Hill were so confident the game would be rained off that they had not bothered to lay any covers on the Friday.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 15 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2017

Cancelled due to rain.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 16 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2017

Win by forfeit as Old Aloysians could not raise side. Possibly in any event game might have been raided off